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BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

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Text messages to boost 'Bayanihan Fund' urged

By Alex Pal
PDI Visayas Bureau

SHARE UR LOAD 4 RP!

DUMAGUETE CITY—First the jewelry; now it's text messages.

After convincing members of Silliman High School

TEXT/A11

Napocor gets rate hike

Militants cry foul, say move will raise power rates again

By Ronnel W. Domingo

ENERGY regulators yesterday granted the state-owned power generator, National Power Corp., a provisional rate increase of an average 98 centavos per kilowatt hour, a move that is sure to hit hard ordinary consumers who are already facing hiked electricity rates this month.

The increase granted by the Energy Regulatory Commission was just half of the P1.87 per kWh that Napocor, which sells power that it generates to electricity distribution utilities, petitioned for last June.

Napocor officials said the firm needs the increase to help stem losses projected to top P100 billion this year.

The new rate will take effect on Sept. 26 and the distribution utilities, like Manila Electric Co., that buy their power from Napocor will likely pass on the new rates to their consumers by Nov. 1, said ERC chair Rodolfo B. Albano Jr. (*See related story on page A5 .*)

But considering that Meralco and other electricity distributors have to go through a process of filing a petition for an adjustment in the generation rate and having this approved, consumers would likely feel the increase in January 2005, said Albano.

It is cold comfort for customers of Meralco who, starting this month, will have to pay an additional 17.37 centavos per kWh, the third generation rate adjustment (GRAM) petition from Meralco to be approved.

Militants instantly denounced the ERC approval, saying the government was exploiting the fiscal crisis to justify an increase in Napocor's rates.

"The rate hike is an unnecessary burden for consumers if only

NAPOCOR/A5

A MOTHER embraces her injured son who escaped from a seized school in Beslan, Russia. More than 300 people, most of them children, died when Russian commandos stormed the school on Friday. AP

Russia mourns 322 dead in siege

BESLAN, Russsia—Russia was plunged into mourning Saturday at the brutal and bloody end to a three-day school siege which left 322 children and adults dead, and many of the 1,000 hostages lying injured in hospitals.

President Vladimir Putin, who had vowed the safety of the hostages was his top priority, paid a surprise pre-dawn visit to the southern town of Beslan and said the whole of Russia shared its grief.

The ITAR-Tass news agency quoted Russian Deputy Prosecutor Sergei Fridinsky as saying 322 bodies, including those of 155 children, had been recovered from the school in Beslan. That raised the death toll well beyond the 250 officials had previously cited.

Officials said more than 500 were wounded in the crisis, which ended in a wave of violence Friday, and there were fears the toll would rise. Commandos stormed the building and battled militants as crying children, some naked and covered with blood, managed to flee through explosions and gunfire after three days during which the hostage takers had herded them into the school gym, denied them food and water and threatened to kill them.

The press described the nightmarish scenes as the

RUSSIA/A10

Work on North Rail project to start soon

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo wants work on the North Rail project to start now.

She personally gave the marching orders to Northrail president Jose Cortez Jr. yesterday, just 10 hours after she returned from her state visit to China, which is funding the commuter train project.

Ms Arroyo expressed irritation that Northrail was dragging its feet on the construction of the Metro Manila-to-Clark (Pampanga) commuter train even after China had released the $400-million funding for the first phase, which would run up to Malolos, Bulacan. (*See related story on Page A2.*)

Also during yesterday's *pulong bayan*, held at the LRT 2 (Santolan-Recto) station in Cubao, Quezon City, the President announced a new acronym for her "10-point legacy"— "BEAT THE ODS"—each letter of which stands for each of her 10 programs in her six-year term.

Building transportation and communication linkages being one of her programs, she tackled the transportation projects in the *pulong bayan* where she was joined by Vice President Noli de Castro, Transportation Secretary Leandro Mendoza, Public Works Secretary Florante Soriquez, Metro Manila Development Authority Chair Bayani Fernando, Sen. Mar Roxas and other officials.

Ms Arroyo said she secured funding for the North Rail project during her visit to China. She said

WORK/A11

GMA says amen to not taxing the church

By Juliet Labog-Javellana and Michelle V. Remo

NO WAY will President Macapagal-Arroyo allow the Catholic Church and religious groups to be taxed.

The President yesterday averted a potential showdown when she firmly put her foot down on a proposal to slap taxes on church property and enterprises as a means of helping the cash-strapped government.

"The Church is the guardian of the spiritual welfare of the Filipino people and charitable work is part of its mission to uplift the moral and spiritual foundations of our society," she said in a statement the morning after she flew home from a three-day state visit to China.

"This should be placed beyond the pale of money matters and we do not agree to taxing the Church," she added.

But the Department of Finance is seeking an audit of the tax remittances of churches and religious organizations.

Finance Undersecretary Grace Tan pointed out that only religious services or non-profit activities that fulfilled the objective of spreading religion—like baptismal, matrimonial and funeral services—were tax-exempt.

"But the law is clear that profit-

GMA/A4

Top teachers tell inspiring tales, dreams

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

"WHY DO you waste your time with those unlovable children," well-meaning people often ask 40-year-old Annabelle Catimbang, who has been teaching the hearing-impaired and autistic children of Iriga City for the last 19 years.

"This is my mission," Catimbang replies.

She and 11 other Special Education (SPED) teachers at the Iriga City Integrated Special School refuse to let such remarks discourage them from their chosen work. In makeshift classrooms at the Iriga City Sports Complex, they teach their special children—mostly hearing-impaired, with some autistics and a few mentally-handicapped youngsters.

Catimbang is among this year's 10 Outstanding Teachers chosen by the

TOP/A4

OUTSTANDING TEACHERS
The winners of this year's Metrobank Foundation search for outstanding teachers are (standing from left) Noel Solis, Dr. Antonio Miguel Dans, Meilrose Peralta, Allan Canonigo, Dr. Manuel Dy Jr. Seated, from left, are Mariecon Ramirez, Josephine Deligente, Genersol Monton, Annabelle Catimbang and Lina Jala. RUDY ESPERAS

POST-ABORTION CARE

Controversial bills stir new debates on policy

By Volt Contreras

(Last of three parts)

SPECIAL REPORT

YOUR taxes were spent to save the life of captured Abu Sayyaf leader Ghalib Andang, aka Commander Robot. The state spends to feed death convicts thrice a day, or to treat a wounded insurgent who fell into military hands.

So why can't society be as kind to a woman who is bleeding to death or is at risk of infection after committing the "crime" of abortion?

The 13th Congress is seeing the revival of bills calling for a comprehensive national policy on reproductive health (RH) and population management. Apart from sparking fresh debates on the prickly issue of family planning, they advance a view that may draw as much scrutiny: that women who undergo illegal abortions are also entitled to humane treatment and good medical care.

House Bill No. 16 of Albay Rep. Edcel Lagman and the counterpart Senate Bill No. 2325 of Sen. Rodolfo Biazon call on the state to guarantee women's access to a wide range of RH services that should include management of post-abortion complications.

In separate interviews with the INQUIRER, Lagman and Biazon maintained that they were not condoning or encouraging abortion, or fueling calls for its eventual decriminalization.

They said their intention was simply for the health sector to extend a compassionate hand to a woman who had un-

CONTROVERSIAL/A10

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Eastern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers. The rest of the country will be partly clourainshowers.
SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/06/28/02

E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph

Second FRONT PAGE

Text us your feedback: inquirer news name/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Rains
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	Roxas	Rains
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

Text gambling plan opposed

SMART Communications, the country's largest mobile phone company, yesterday opposed the plan of the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. (Pagcor) to operate games of chance through cellular phones, saying it will promote gambling among the youth.

"The majority of cellular phone users are young people, including a large number of minors. Pagcor's plan to offer games of chance through mobile phones would inevitably expose them to the dangers of getting hooked on gambling," said Dr. Rogelio V. Quevedo, legal counsel and carrier relations head of Smart.

Pagcor had informed the National Telecommunications Commission in July that it would operate games of chance through cellular phones in order to generate additional revenue for the cash-strapped government.

"In the furtherance of its mandate as the exclusive provider of gaming activities in the country, and in order to generate revenue for the national government, Pagcor intends to operate games of chance through the Internet and wireless mobile cellular networks in the country," Pagcor had said in a letter to NTC.

To implement the plan, Pagcor asked the NTC to grant it four access numbers to handle text and multi-media messages for the purpose of operating games of chance through mobile phones. These access numbers were 888, 777, 878 and 787.

But Quevedo said it was the position of Smart "that we are against allowing games of chance to be made available through our mobile phone network." "That is why Smart will not give access numbers to Pagcor," he added.

Pagcor plans to take a share of the revenues of SMS-based games by requiring cellular operators to course all text traffic in connection with these games through the four access numbers. But Pagcor had no estimate of how much would be generated by the games.

The NTC, however, has not acted on Pagcor's request for access numbers, saying that it wanted to ensure that minors would be prohibited from participating in text gambling.

"We agree with the objective of the NTC. We are aware that it will be difficult, if not impossible, to keep minors from accessing these games of chance once they are offered through mobile phones," Quevedo said.

He added that it was ironic that Pagcor had asked the NTC to tighten its supervision of telecom firms to stop the heavy betting that was going on through mobile phones on the results of basketball games.

"Cellular operators are being unfairly blamed for a problem that is beyond their control. Meantime, Pagcor is proposing to operate games of chance through mobile phones," Quevedo said.

The prevalence of text gambling even on school campuses had prompted the Department of Education to ban the use of cellphones during class hours.

The Deparment of Justice earlier proposed the ban of cellphones on campuses in reaction to reported high-stakes gambling activities among students, particularly in private high schools.

Earlier, Pagcor spokesperson Edward King said the gaming agency would like all text games to be coursed through numbers that Pagcor could regulate.

"In the event that we classify any game of chance on TV or texting, then we would ask them to centralize this through the numbers so Pagcor could regulate them," King said.

This way, Pagcor would have an idea of how much telecom companies earned from text gaming and it could collect the government's 20-percent share, he said.

Study on Spratlys could lead to 'condo style' sharing–Nene

THE AGREEMENT forged between the Philippines and China to conduct a seismic study of the disputed Spratly Islands in order to determine the extent of its petroleum deposits could lead to the actual "sharing" between the two countries of the potential resources of the island chain, a lawmaker said yesterday.

Sen. Aquilino "Nene" Pimentel, who represented the opposition in President Macapagal-Arroyo's state visit to China last week, said this was the "unstated" intention behind the accord to conduct a joint seismic study of the potentially oil-rich area in the South China Sea.

The agreement, signed on Sept. 1, the first day of Ms Arroyo's three-day visit, will determine the presence of oil and gas in the disputed islands which are being claimed in whole and in part by the Philippines, China, Vietnam and three other Asian countries.

At the weekly Sulo Hotel media forum in Quezon City, Pimentel said, "The best thing that can be said of the trip is that it started some concrete, modest steps to ease tensions in the Spratlys."

Referring to the Spratlys agreement, he said: "Unstated is the intent of the Philippines and China to eventually propose a 'condominium' development approach to the utilization of resources that may be discovered in the islets..."

In an interview, Pimentel explained that the "condominium" approach basically conveys the idea of "a building being owned by many occupants rather than by one person."

"The direction [set by the agreement] is to share resources the sea underneath the Spratlys may have so as to avoid resorting to force to settle the [territorial] dispute," he said.

"The next conceivable step is the condominium approach, the joint use of facilities and resources," the senator added.

This principle, for example, has been applied to the North Sea whose waters were opened to fishermen from surrounding European countries. *Volt Contreras*

RP to pursue defense talks with China

FOLLOWING President Macapagal-Arroyo's state visit to China, Defense Secretary Avelino Cruz is set to visit the country again for a high-level dialogue with his counterpart there to discuss and enhance defense cooperation between the two nations.

"I will schedule a visit to China to establish a dialogue first on a higher level for possible areas of defense cooperation," Cruz said in an interview with reporters at Camp Aguinaldo.

Among the issues to be discussed, he said, is the possibility of conducting joint military exercises between the two countries. "It will be a dialogue first so we can talk about which areas we can enter."

But Cruz had not yet set a schedule for the China visit. He said he would wait for the report of Defense Assistant Secretary for Policy and Special Concerns Alejandro Melchor before scheduling the trip. Melchor, who was part of Ms Arroyo's party to China, is in charge of international policy and relations for the Department of National Defense.

"This will definitely be high-level since there were political, economic and cultural talks (during the President's trip). So the issue of defense cooperation was also discussed," Cruz said.

For his part, Armed Forces of the Philippines Chief of Staff Gen. Narciso Abaya said he had received an invitation from his Chinese counterpart.

Abaya said he might visit China this month.

Defense cooperation between the two countries was agreed upon in separate closed-door meetings between Ms Arroyo and Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao and his predecessor, Jiang Zemin, who now chairs the communist party's powerful military commission.
Alcuin Papa

Araneta Center-Cubao
12

AGAINST the backdrop of a train, President Arroyo stresses the need to complete the metro light rail loop to ease traffic in the metropolis, during the "pulong bayan" held yesterday at the MRT station in Cubao. Beside her is her "co-emcee" Vice President Noli de Castro. AP

GMA, Mar Roxas bat for metro rail system

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

HE'S NOT just Mr. Palengke. You can also call him Mr. MRT.

Sen. Mar Roxas yesterday became President Macapagal-Arroyo's poster boy for the light rail system when it was revealed that the wealthy bachelor takes the train to get to the Senate.

"Even if Mar Roxas is very rich, he [used to] take the Metro Rail Transit here in Cubao up to Makati when he was (trade) secretary," Ms Arroyo said, as Roxas arrived to join her at the "pulong bayan" held at the Light Rail Transit Line 2 (Santolan-Recto) station at the Araneta Center in Cubao, Quezon City.

"That's right, Mrs. President. Even up to now we ride (the MRT 3) in going to the Senate. This time I alight at the Taft-Edsa (station) so I (avoid) all the traffic," Roxas said.

Roxas, who ran on Ms Arroyo's ticket, topped the May 2004 senatorial polls with an unprecedented 19 million votes, the highest ever garnered in the history of Philippine elections. He ran as Mr. Palengke, the champion of market vendors.

The President said Roxas was the host of the "pulong bayan," being the grandson of Amado Araneta who founded the Araneta commercial center.

"Our number-one senator, Mar Roxas, is here because he inherited Cubao from his grandfather, Don Amading Araneta, so he is our host [for the town hall meeting], not as a senator but as the grandson of the owner," she said.

With transportation as the subject of yesterday's meeting, Ms Arroyo stressed the importance of the MRT 3 loop, which runs from North Avenue in Quezon City to Taft Avenue in Pasay City via Edsa, and LRT 2 which runs from Santolan in Cubao to Recto Avenue in Manila. The two lines intersect at Cubao, allowing MRT 3 and LRT 2 riders to transfer to the other line.

"That is a very important loop. We will complete that (loop) so that wherever you live and work, you just need one jeepney ride to the train station and when you alight, it's just another short jeepney ride to your place of work," she said.

Vice President Noli de Castro, Ms Arroyo's co-host in the weekly "pulong bayan," then pointed out that some car owners had taken to riding the MRT. *(See related story on PAge A6)*

Ms Arroyo asked Transportation Secretary Leandro Mendoza where car owners could park their vehicles if they opt to take the train.

Mendoza started explaining that park-and-ride terminals were being constructed in Valenzuela and Pasay cities.

"But why are the parking areas far from the (train) stations?" she asked.

Ms Arroyo then pointed to the MRT 3 main station on North Avenue, which would be extended up to Moñumento in Caloocan City.

"This one first. North Avenue to Moñumento [which has not yet been constructed]. I am so impatient over this. I don't want to talk about other [transportation] projects until work on this has been started because this [completed MRT 3] can solve the traffic problem in the metropolis," she said.

OFWs may soon be headed for Iraq–Bunye

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

THE ADMINISTRATION appears close to lifting the ban on the deployment of overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) to Iraq.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye yesterday said members of the Middle East Preparedness Team and the Iraq Team had recommended the deployment of workers to some parts of Iraq.

"The situation is continuously under review," Bunye said in an RMN radio interview. "There is no definite decision by the President yet but based on the study of our so-called Middle East Group, Middle East Team, along with the Department of Foreign Affairs, Department of Labor, especially the OWWA (Overseas Workers Welfare Administration), it appears there are some places that are relatively safe for our workers.

"So this is being studied and we will probably have a decision on this very soon," he said.

Ms Arroyo stopped the deployment of Filipino workers to Iraq after truck driver Angelo de la Cruz was abducted by Iraqi rebels in July.

The President was forced to comply with the Iraqi militants' demand to withdraw the Philippines' 51-man humanitarian contingent from Iraq to save De la Cruz from being decapitated.

The decision angered the United States and other members of the Coalition of the Willing, some 40 countries which supported the US-led invasion of Iraq.

Abu Sabaya's sister nabbed in Basilan

ISABELA CITY, Basilan—Police on Friday arrested the younger sister of the late Abu Sayyaf spokesperson Abu Sabaya for her alleged involvement in the bandit group's activities, particularly the May 2001 raid on the Dos Palmas Resort in Palawan.

Senior Supt. Bensali Jabarani, Basilan police director, identified her as Satra Abdulaup Tillah, 40.

Several people, including American missionary-couple Martin and Gracia Burnham, were abducted in the raid. Most of the victims were released after they allegedly paid ransom.

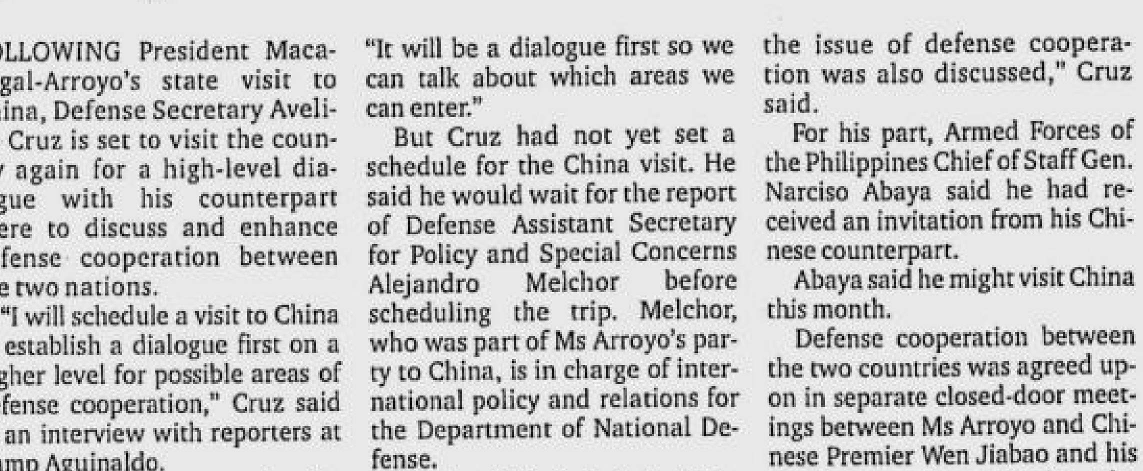
Martin Burnham was killed during a botched military rescue operation in Zamboanga del Norte in 2002. His wife Gracia was rescued.

Sabaya was believed killed in another military operation off the Zamboanga coast. His body which fell into the water was never recovered.

Jabarani said Tillah, a nurse, provided logistics to the Abu Sayyaf and served as custodian of Sabaya's share of the ransom.

"She was also involved in the financing and medical requirements of the bandits," Jabarani told the INQUIRER.

Ricardo Cabaron, assistant state prosecutor for Western Mindanao, said former hostages in the Dos Palmas raid and victims of the Abu Sayyaf in Lamitan had said Tillah had cooperated with the bandit group on several occasions. *Julie S. Alipala, PDI Mindanao Bureau*



WASH YOUR FEET FIRST

Arriving passengers at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport are required to step into a chemical footbath to prevent the entry of the bird flu virus into the country, after an outbreak of the disease was noted in Malaysia. AFP

Ex-polls chief calls for new code

By Martin P. Marfil

A FORMER chair of the Commission on Elections has proposed the enactment of a new election code that would rid the country of political dynasties, allow sectoral representation in local government councils and improve the absentee voting system.

Christian Monsod said new election code should "give more meaning to the right of suffrage, level the playing field, widen access to public office and democratize participation in the affairs of government.

Aside from a new election code, Monsod also proposed the appointment of impartial, competent and honest Comelec commissioners as part of the country's electoral reforms.

He also proposed refining voters registration by giving permanent numbers that could be integrated with other systems in government like the Social Security System, the Government Service Insurance System, birth certificates and passports.

Instead of spending for voter registration, he said Comelec should focus on less expensive ways to address cheating.

"It is distressing to hear new commissioners always suggesting as their first project another general registration to "finally clear up the voters' lists,'" he said.

According to Monsod, the Comelec has a strong bureaucracy which is capable of delivering the most modern elections.

"But it is a bureaucracy and the commissioners influence to a large extent how many of them will behave. How an intelligent appointing power can miss that opportunity for leadership is difficult to comprehend," Monsod said during a speech before participants of the Second Electoral Reform Summit last week.

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GMA says amen to not taxing the church

From page A1

oriented activities, such as the selling of rosaries and other religious items, are taxable," said Tan, the DOF official in charge of tax-related matters.

Tan said profits from investments by religious groups, the lease of their land, and the rent from dormitories operated by Church-run schools were also liable to tax.

She said the Bureau of Internal Revenue should begin an audit of the tax compliance of religious groups.

"I don't know if they are remitting taxes," she said, adding that the DOF was eager to determine whether the government was collecting the proper income and value-added taxes from profit-oriented church activities.

Drawing the line

Taxing the Church and religious groups was among the various proposals raised by certain officials and legislators after the President admitted that the country was in dire financial straits and asked Congress to pass eight new tax laws to raise P80 billion.

She has cut by 40 percent the pork barrel of lawmakers for next year and instituted a government-wide austerity program aimed at saving P20 billion to address the severe budget deficit.

But Ms Arroyo, a devout Catholic who was elected to a fresh term partly with the vote of religious groups, drew the line on religion.

She said her administration had laid down a "detailed and concrete action plan on how the fiscal crisis could effectively be averted," referring to the eight proposed new taxes and her austerity program.

"And we believe this is all that matters," she said, adding:

"We are not turning to the Church or other religious groups as a source of revenue."

The President made her position clear after Manila Archbishop Gaudencio Rosales and Bro. Mike Velarde of the Catholic charismatic group El Shaddai criticized the proposal to tax church property, including well-known schools and educational institutions.

Malacañang also appealed to legislators to put a priority on the passage of revenue measures to address the budget deficit before reviving moves to amend the Constitution.

"The President is committed to changing our form of government, but we are focused at the moment on addressing the serious financial challenge we are facing," Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said yesterday.

PRESIDENT Arroyo executes a salute upon her arrival Friday from a state visit to China.

ROGER MARGALLO

"There will be a time for political change after we have eased the economic situation," Bunye said.

Civic groups, too

Undersecretary Tan said calling for an audit of the tax remittance of churches and religious groups should also lead to the scrutiny of the tax compliance of civic organizations.

She said churches and civic groups fell under the same category in the National Internal Revenue Code and, therefore, the coverage and limits of the tax-exempt privilege of religious groups also held true for the latter.

"We have to do this with caution because there might be a question of equity," she said. "Like the Church, the activities of groups that are solely intended for the promotion of social welfare are tax-exempt, but their profit-oriented activities are [not]."

Tan said it was proper for the BIR, the government's main revenue-collecting agency under the DOF, to conduct an audit given the popular misconception on the tax exemption of churches and civic organizations.

She said the DOF suspected that some of these groups had been remiss in their tax obligations because of this misconception.

Top teachers tell . . .

From page A1

Metrobank Foundation for their "outstanding contribution to the teaching profession, personal integrity and character, competence and professional and community involvement."

Her story is inspiring. While a lot of other SPED teachers have gone abroad for better pay, she has decided to stay.

Nine years ago, when the privately-run SPED school in the city closed down and the special children had nowhere to go, Catimbang continued to teach them. She began with 32 students whom she taught by herself for six months. Soon, other teachers joined in.

Today, they have 104 students. Catimbang teaches the hearing-impaired in Grades 1 and 2 and personally tutors two autistic children. Her 17-year-old daughter, the eldest in a brood of five, also teaches ballet to the kids.

Despite what she has already accomplished, she would like to reach out to other special children whose parents had given up on them, or were just too poor to send them to special schools.

Catimbang and her husband are not well-off themselves, but they do what they can to help their students.

Music is her life

Another awardee, 57-year-old Lina Jala, has dedicated 36 years of her life teaching music to grade school students at the Triple Union Elementary School in her hometown of Loboc, Bohol.

Jala, who never had any formal training in music, learned to play the piano at age four from her mother.

As a music teacher, she taught and accompanied on the piano the Loboc Children's Choir.

Last year, she and the choir won the grand prize in a choral competition in Barcelona, Spain, and went on a concert tour of 10 European cities, including the Vatican, from September to November.

Despite the hardship of being a public school teacher, Jala wouldn't trade teaching for anything. It's enough that her students turn out well and still remember her.

"I have students who are already working and earning high salaries, yet they remember me," she says. "That's the joy of teaching."

What makes her job hard, she adds, is when some of her students drop out before finishing high school. Right now, she's helping three former students enter college.

Although Jala is due to retire in three years, she says she will never stop teaching. "I enjoy my work. I love being with children. I love playing and singing with them. They make me feel young."

The English teacher

Meilrose Peralta, 35, another awardee, admits that at first, she didn't want to be a teacher.

But since her parents were retired division superintendents, it was inevitable.

She had no regrets.

Peralta teaches English at the Kidapawan City Pilot Elementary School. She put up the school publication, The Pilot Gazette, which has been cited as one of the country's best school papers. She also trains students for regional writing competitions.

Her heart swells with pride when her students succeed despite the setback of poverty.

"I try to encourage them. I tell them to do their best," she says. "I notice that it's the poor students who work hard and are motivated to excel."

She cites two former honor students struggling against all odds to finish high school: Albert Antipuesto, who's in third year, and Hope Earl Borongan, who's in second year. Both are students at the Kidapawan City National High School.

"I hope they finish and go on to college," she prays fervently, like they were her own kids.

Peralta has been a teacher for 14 years and has turned down several opportunities to go abroad.

"I believe I was meant to teach. I'm here to stay," she says.

Dedicated to teaching

The seven other Outstanding Teachers chosen by the Metrobank Foundation are:

Josephine Deligente, 49, who has been teaching Filipino for 28 years at the Fernando Ma. Guerrero Elementary School in Paco, Manila.

Genersol Monton, 46, is a Biology teacher at the Fort Bonifacio High School in Makati City.

Mariecon Ramirez, at 33, is one of the youngest awardees and has been teaching English at the Ilocos Norte National High School in Laoag City for the last 13 years.

Allan Canonigo, 33, has been a Math teacher for the last 12 years at the New Ormoc City National High School.

Noel Solis, 36, is a Biology teacher at the Zamboanga del Norte National High School in Dipolog City.

Dr. Antonio Miguel Dans, 46, is a medical professor at the University of the Philippines in Manila and a cardiologist at the Philippine General Hospital. His mission, the good doctor says, is to promote "professional ethics in the medical practice."

Dr. Manuel Dy Jr., 57, is a Philosophy professor at the Ateneo de Manila University in Quezon City and is involved in community work.

The 10 awardees were feted at a dinner last Wednesday at the Philippine Daily Inquirer offices.

They were awarded their trophies and P200,000 each in cash in formal ceremonies at the Metrobank Plaza auditorium in Makati on Friday.

Tomorrow, they will receive their gold medallions from President Macapagal-Arroyo in Malacañang.

The
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Admissions Committee

is now accepting applications for first year Medicine for school year 2005-2006. Application forms are available at the Admissions Office, 2/F St. Martin de Porres (Medicine) Building. (Application forms may also be downloaded from www.ust.edu.ph/sitelinks/academics/Medicine.asp?progid=07).

The filing of applications has been set from September 13, 2004 to November 26, 2004. Applicants with surnames A-H should file their application from Sept. 13-30, 2004. Applicants with surnames I-P should file their application from Oct. 4-29, 2004. Applicants with surnames Q-Z should file their application from Nov. 4-26, 2004.

The interview, an important parameter for admission, will be conducted starting November 8, 2004.

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Napocor . . .

From page A1

to address Napocor's ballooning losses. The government could have stopped Napocor's financial bleeding if it had renegotiated or canceled Napocor's expensive and onerous contracts with [independent power producers]," said the Freedom from Debt Coalition.

Every increase in the Napocor generation charge results in another electricity hike application from Meralco and other distribution utilities that buy power from the state utility.

The generation charge appears in customers' utility bills as the GRAM, a cost-recovery scheme that replaced the purchased power adjustment (PPA) last year and which allows Napocor and electricity distributors to pass on the fluctuations in fuel prices and the currency exchange rate to consumers.

GRAM charges go directly to Napocor and the independent power producers from which distributors like Meralco buy their power.

In justifying the hike, Albano said the provisional rate increase would provide "relief to Napocor's operations, avert financial losses and help reduce the country's budget deficit."

The debt-ridden Napocor has been a major factor in the continued deterioration of the country's fiscal position and the government's inability to sustain a debt-reduction program.

Saddled with some P1.3 trillion in debts, Napocor has for years struggled to stay afloat. Its losses have been one of the biggest drag on the country's consolidated public sector deficit and delays in its privatization continue to bleed the government's finances.

In the face of a looming fiscal crisis, the government has decided on drastic measures to stem Napocor's losses which continue to swell because of the state firm's inability to increase its rates.

As part of a six-year fiscal program unveiled last week, the Arroyo administration said it planned to increase Napocor's charges to generate an additional P75 billion.

The Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp., the agency overseeing Napocor's privatization, has long wanted to peg Napocor's generation rates to market rates to stoke foreign investor interest. An increase in Napocor's charges would help reduce its operating losses and make it more attractive to investors.

In its June 22 petition for a power rate hike, Napocor said the increase would allow the state firm to raise its profitability to the minimum 8 percent return on rate base set by its foreign creditors.

The latest data showed that the power firm has a return on rate base of negative 1.77. It has not seen a positive operating income since before the Asian financial crisis of 1977.

Albano said the ERC granted a lower increase than what Napocor had requested because of some corrections in the valuation methods that the state utility used to determine its rate base and other computations.

For instance, costs arising from foreign exchange fluctuations which Napocor had included in its petition should be recovered through another recovery mechanism—the incremental currency exchange rate adjustment, he said.

The ERC will continue to hold public hearings on the rate increase and receive additional evidence from all interested parties before it issues a final order "before year-end," said Albano.

"As provisional authority, the rate relief is subject to refund should the final determination of rates be lower than those authorized," he added.

According to Albano, the provisional rate hike would raise P110 billion yearly in additional revenue for Napocor.

But Napocor and PSALM officials said they expected to realize only about P35 billion a year.

Napocor president Rogelio Murga said the firm respected the ERC order although the increase was "considerably lower than we were asking for."

"The rates still do not reflect the true cost of power. For instance, while the new rates in the Visayas would be P3.03 a kWh, we are spending about P3.40 for fuel alone," he said.

PSALM president Raphael Lotilla said any amount would help Napocor achieve financial viability and continue its operations.

"This would also help improve the value of its generating assets. The privatization is still on track," Lotilla said, adding that they would now work on getting the final authority for rates that were closer to what the firm needed.

Nonito Bernardo, PSALM's vice president for finance, said the additional rates would raise P8 billion for Napocor from September to December.

"That means Napocor's projected net loss in 2004 would go down to P106 billion from P114 billion," he said. Napocor suffered a net loss of P113 billion in 2003.

Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan) spokesperson Renato Reyes Jr. condemned the ERC order that gave the biggest rate hike to Napocor since the Electric Power Reform Act was passed in 2001.

"The ERC approved a rate hike even when hearings were still in progress and oppositors were still in the process of questioning the necessity of the increase," Reyes said.

The militant group complained that the ERC held only about four public hearings on the petition and many questions still needed to be answered.

"Napocor said a rate increase was intended to recoup its losses so that it can be privatized. Privatization is not an acceptable basis for rate-setting and cannot be used to justify a rate increase," Reyes said.

How Napocor rates affect electricity rates

AN INCREASE in National Power Corp.'s generation charge means a round of electricity rate increases as Napocor is the main source of power for electricity distributors nationwide.

These distribution utilities include Manila Electric Co., Visayan Electric Co., Cagayan de Oro Power and Light Co., Davao Light and Power Co. and the electric cooperatives that serve the provinces and those areas not connected to the main power grids.

Energy Regulatory Commission chair Rodolfo Albano said consumers would likely start to feel the increase in January 2005.

The average 98 centavos per kWh increase approved by the ERC would mean an increase in Napocor's basic rate of up to P3.80 per kWh in Luzon, P3.04 per kWh in the Visayas and P2.07 per kWh in Mindanao.

This would translate to an increase of P1.23 per kWh in Luzon, 22 centavos per kWh in the Visayas and about 27 centavos in Mindanao.

For consumers in Luzon who use up to 200 kWh a month, the new rates would mean an additional P246 in their electricity bills, consumers in the Visayas would pay P44 more, while those in Mindanao would pay P54 more.

However, this will apply only for customers of distribution utilities that get their power entirely from Napocor.

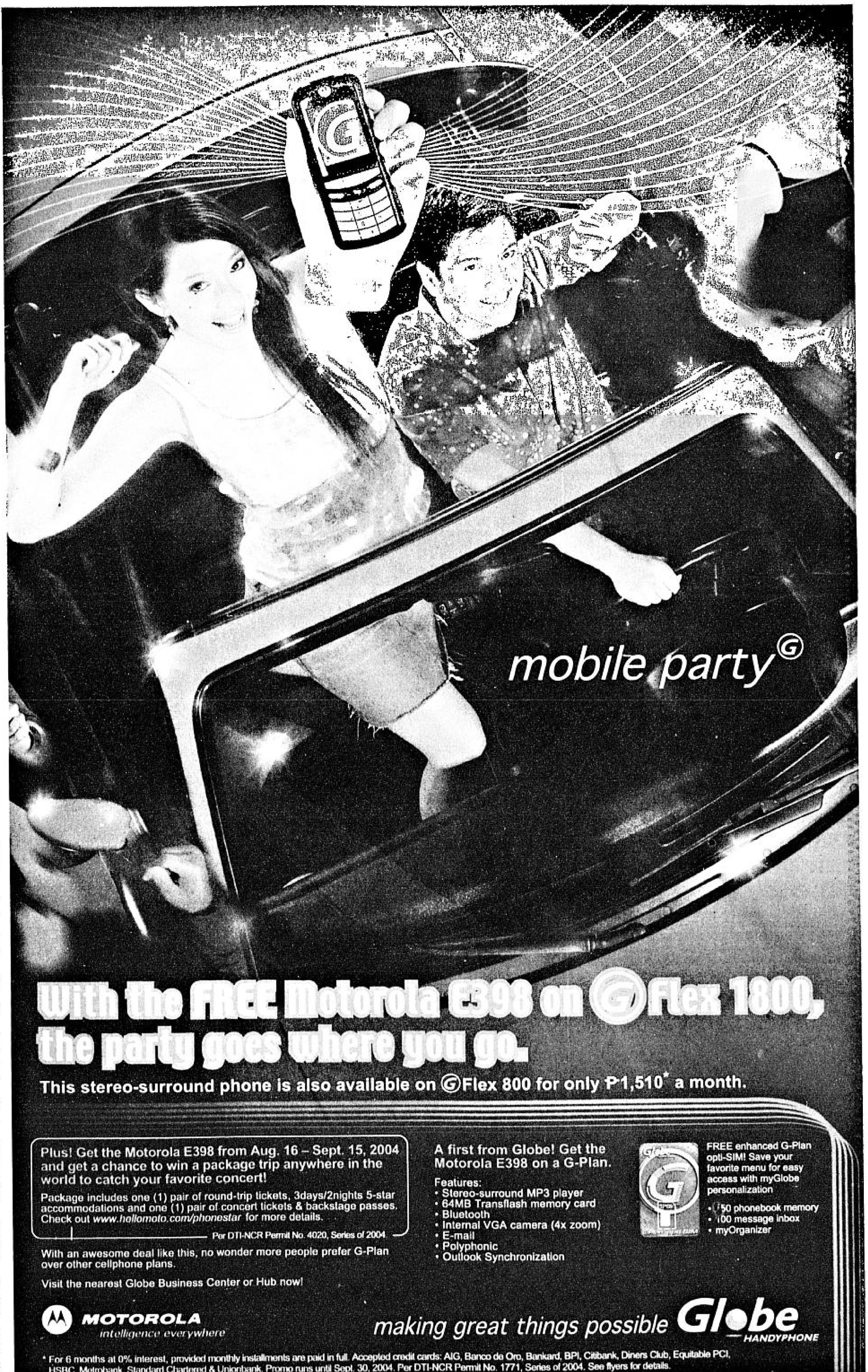
For utilities with multiple sources, the additional charges will affect only the part that applies to Napocor costs. The final computation of the increased rate would depend on how much of the power was sourced from Napocor and how much had come from independent producers (IPPs).

For instance, Meralco, the largest of the distribution utilities with a customer base of about four million, buys only 50 percent of its power from Napocor, sourcing the rest from IPPs owned by the firm's controlling group, the Lopez family.

Thus, only half of the electricity that a Meralco customer consumes within a billing period will be subject to the new increase. If the Meralco customer used up 200 kWh, for instance, he or she would pay an additional P123 from the approved increase. Assuming of course that the cost of power that Meralco bought from its affiliated IPPs did not change.

Still, Meralco and the other distributors cannot pass on the additional costs from Napocor charges until they file a petition to do so and until the ERC approves their petition.

Albano said consumers who use up to 100 kWh or less are entitled to a discount of up to 50 percent, depending on the schedule of discounts applied by their particular distributors. *Ronnel W. Domingo*



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4 Sundays of terror start today for aspiring lawyers

By Philip C. Tubeza

MORE than 5,000 law graduates are set to take the 2004 bar exams beginning today.

In a statement, the Supreme Court said 5,421 examinees will take the tests to be given at De La Salle University, Taft Ave., Manila, on the next four Sundays.

Deputy clerk of court and bar confidant Ma. Cristina B. Layusa said the Manila police and the Metro Manila Development Authority will secure the area with patrol cars and bomb disposal units.

Layusa urged examinees to come early since the annual Alay Lakad along Roxas Boulevard could affect traffic in the area.

She said the DLSU gates would be opened at 5 a.m. while the portion of Taft Avenue from Quirino Avenue to Pablo Ocampo St. (formerly Vito Cruz) would be closed to traffic from 4 a.m. to 6 p.m. during the exam days.

Aside from the police, medical and dental teams would also be deployed near La Salle, Layusa said.

She said the court has assigned more than 1,000 of its personnel to ensure the clean conduct of the exams. These include superintendents, supervisors, watchers, bar assistants and special assistants.

Justice Leonardo A. Quisumbing is chair of this year's examination committee. Exam results will be released in April 2005.

This year's tests will be the first to be held after the Supreme Court instituted reforms in the bar examinations.

One of the reforms, which would take effect next year, would bar law graduates from taking the exams if they had failed it three times.

The court said examinees may make a fourth or fifth try after they successfully complete a one-year course for each exam. Those who fail five or more times shall be allowed to make one more try if they take the refresher course.

Under the Rules of Court, examinees pass the exam if they obtain a general average of 75 percent from all the subjects without falling below 50 percent in any subject.

'Kabayan' to be 'acting President' 4 more times

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

VICE President Noli de Castro would be "acting President" four more times before the year is over.

President Macapagal-Arroyo broke the news to De Castro during the "pulong bayan" (town hall meeting) yesterday, the morning after she returned from a three-day state visit to China.

Ms Arroyo will leave next week for Brunei. Next month, she will fly to Vietnam to attend the Asia-Europe Meeting. On the last week of November, she will join leaders of the Pacific Rim nations for the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit in Chile. Then she will go to Laos for the annual meeting of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

Ms Arroyo designated De Castro government caretaker during her three-day absence earlier this week.

De Castro, however, did not bother to go to Malacañang to attend the meetings of the caretaker committee headed by Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita. It appeared that his functions were limited to "ceremonial duties," such as receiving visitors while the President was away.

Ms Arroyo openly praised De Castro, not for his work as caretaker, but for his timely knowledge about an issue discussed in yesterday's meeting which centered on transportation projects.

At one point in the televised one-hour meeting, Ms Arroyo was complaining why work on the North Rail project could not begin immediately even after the Chinese government, which is financing the commuter train project, had released the initial $400 million funding.

Northrail president Jose Cortez Jr. explained that squatters on the railroad tracks were delaying the project.

De Castro answered that the National Housing Authority has already relocated squatters in the Caloocan portion.

"Oh, you're the one in charge of this now. Excuse me, you're the one we should be interviewing," a smiling Ms Arroyo said to her seat mate.

When a squatter from Malabon was about to make her plea for relocation, Ms Arroyo asked if the North Rail project would pass by Malabon and De Castro again butted in, confirming it would pass there.

"Noli has memorized his job, thank you Noli," Ms Arroyo said.

Pinay shopper stung by scorpion inside Hong Kong supermarket

HONG KONG—A Filipino woman was stung by a scorpion hiding inside a fresh fruit pack at a Hong Kong supermarket, the store's spokeswoman said on Saturday.

Teresa Abad Cielos felt a sharp pain on her left hand and saw a scorpion crawling on the fruit Wednesday, said Diane Chiu, a spokeswoman for the Wellcome supermarket chain.

Cielos felt shaky from the sting and went to a hospital to receive treatment, Chiu said.

She took a picture of the 2.5-centimeter (1-inch) long scorpion with her mobile phone to show doctors.

"I was really shocked and frightened to find it was a scorpion lying on the ground," Cielos was quoted as saying in the South China Morning Post.

The supermarket is investigating how the scorpion found its way into the pack of "long ku," a tropical fruit imported from Thailand, Chiu said.

No other scorpions were found, she said.

"It's a very rare and individual case," Chiu said. "It's never happened before in the 59-year history of Wellcome."

Chiu said the store had apologized to Cielos, who is from the Philippines, and would reimburse her medical expenses.

AP

'Nina' spares RP but heavy rains predicted

TYPHOON Songda (international code name) became "Nina" when it entered the extreme northern portion of the Philippine area of responsibility on Friday afternoon.

Weather forecasters yesterday warned that Nina may induce rainshowers and thunderstorms today over Northern Luzon, including the flooded provinces in Central Luzon.

Nina, however, is not seen to directly affect the archipelago. It will be closest to the Batanes group of islands on Monday morning when it is expected to hit land in Taiwan.

As of yesterday afternoon, Nina was located 1,150 km east northeast of Basco, Batanes, with maximum center winds of 160 kph and gustiness of 190 kph. It was moving west at 15 kph.

Nina is the 14th typhoon to enter the country this year, said Pagasa weather plotter Blessy Bartolome. The Philippines experiences an annual average of 30 to 35 typhoons.

Crisis manager coming to Manila

IN THESE troubled times, Nova-X Solutions, a business intelligence provider of niche markets, is bringing to Manila Warren Thompson, director of crisis management at Burson-Marsteller, Australia, for a workshop on Crisis Management on Sept. 6-7 at the Hotel Inter-Continental, Makati City.

The interactive clinic will offer participants an inside look into case studies of such brand names as Nike, Shell, Panadol, Enron and Keppel Shipyard which at some point had gone through their own crises.

Thompson has over 20 years consulting experience and is regarded as one of Asia's leading crisis-preparedness and disaster recovery specialists.

His clients include Abbott Australia, Lucent Technologies, ANZ Banking Corp., Argyle Diamonds, Millmerran Power, Australian Water Services, Energex, InterGen and Sanofi-Synthelabo, among others. He has worked in China, Indonesia, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Singapore, the US, Vietnam and Western Samoa.

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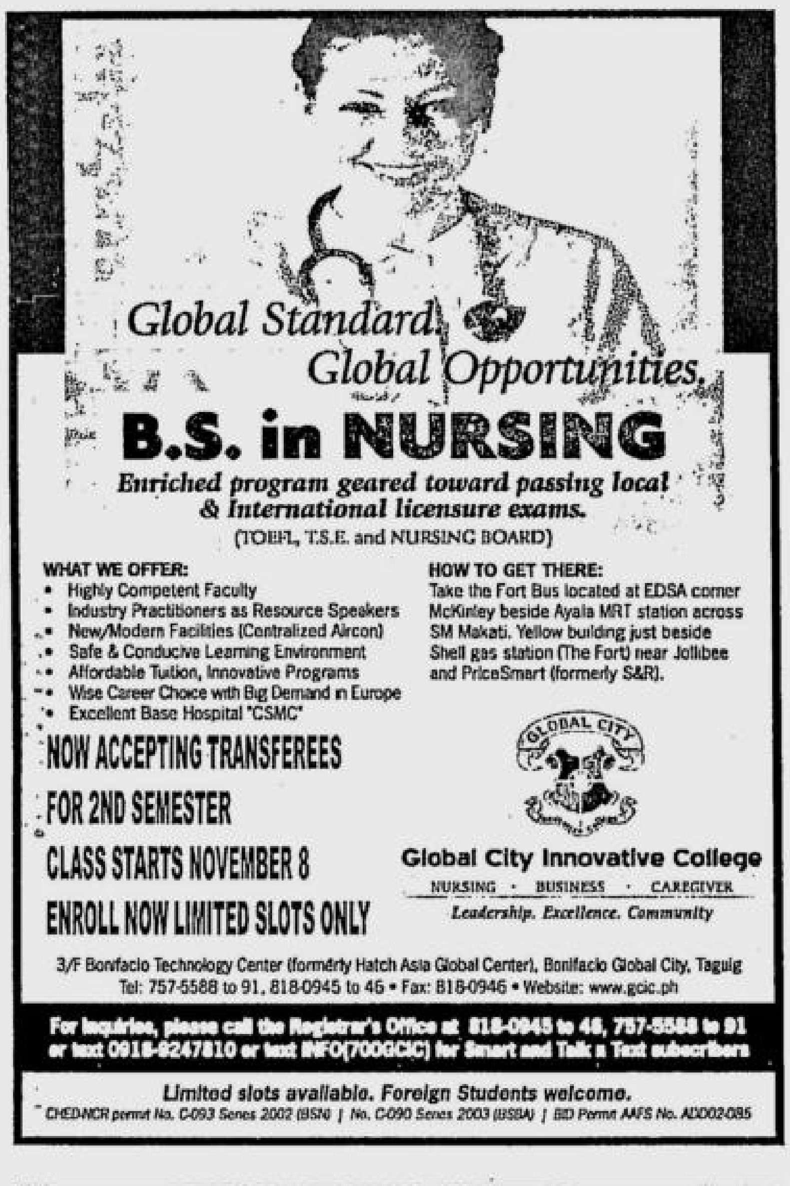
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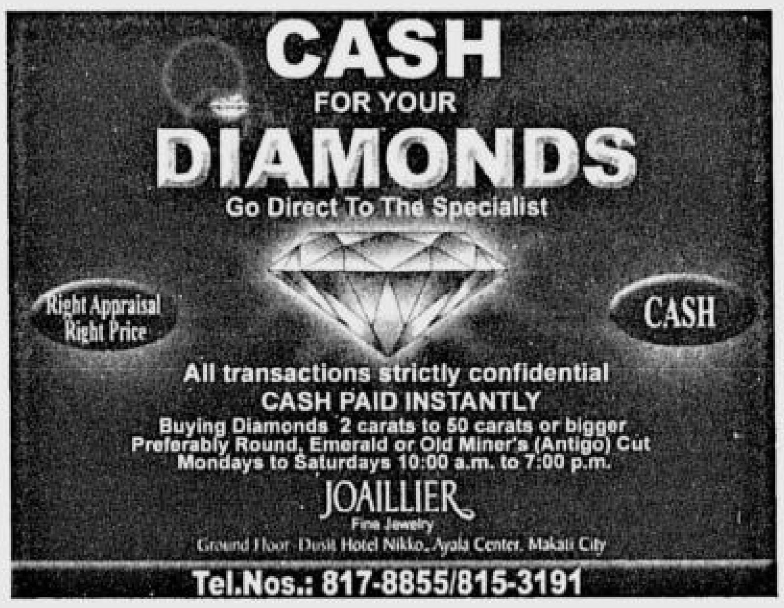
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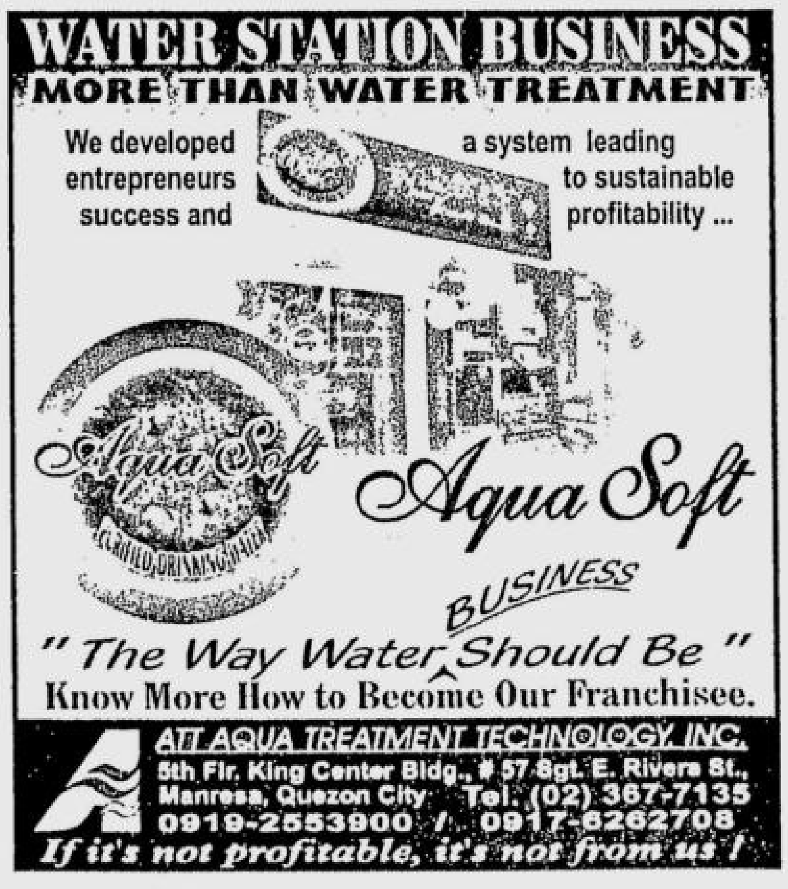
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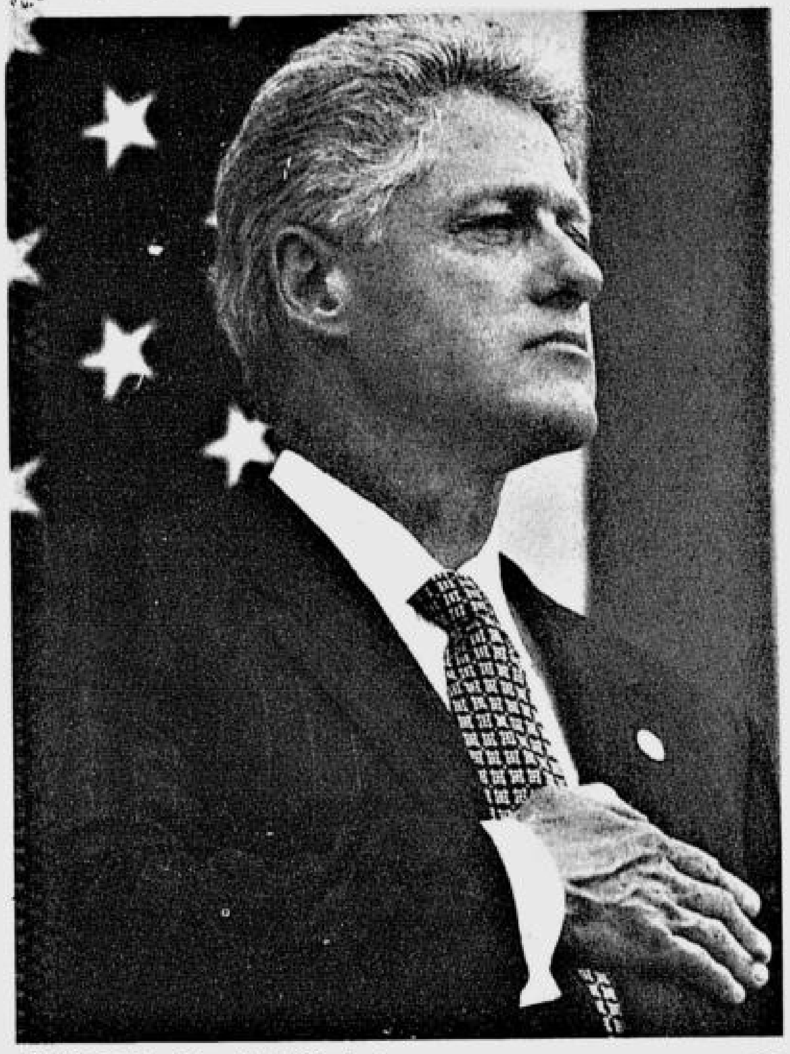
Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

Clinton to undergo heart bypass surgery next week



CLINTON in a May 31, 1999 photo. AFP

NEW YORK—Former US president Bill Clinton was in hospital early Saturday awaiting heart bypass surgery after seeking medical help for chest pains and shortness of breath.

"My husband is doing very well," Sen. Hillary Clinton said outside New York Presbyterian Hospital-Columbia late Friday. "He will be having surgery early in the week. There will be no further information between now and then."

Television networks said Clinton, who became 58 in August, would need quadruple bypass surgery but this was not confirmed by his family or aides.

"I just had a feeling a couple of days ago I had to have it checked, when I finally got some tightness in my chest," Clinton told cable news channel CNN late Friday to describe what happened. "We did this angiogram and found out I had blockage that was too significant to open and put a stent in. We had to do the whole surgery.

"I feel really blessed, you know, because a lot of people who have a heart attack never get any advance warning," Clinton said.

"Let me just say this, Republicans aren't the only people who want four more years here," Clinton joked, admitting to feeling "a little scared, but not much."

Clinton checked into a hospital in Westchester County in the New York suburbs late Thursday and returned for additional tests Friday.

The doctors "advised him to have bypass surgery and do it as soon as he could," Hillary Clinton said.

The ex-president was admitted to New York Presbyterian Hospital-Columbia, which has one of the top cardiology units in the United States.

Clinton immediately received messages of goodwill from President George W. Bush and other world leaders.

Secret Service agents were posted outside the Columbia-Presbyterian hospital. Television camera operators and dozens of well-wishers gathered outside.

Clinton has spent recent months promoting his best-selling autobiography "My Life." He keeps up a punishing schedule of international speaking engagements while wife Hillary pursues her political career as a US senator representing New York state.

The former president was at a book-signing in New Orleans, Louisiana, on Wednesday. *AFP*

Singapore seeks more foreigners in face of its low birth rate

SINGAPORE—Singapore is encouraging more foreigners to take up citizenship to boost its population, complementing incentives aimed at convincing couples to have more children, reports said Saturday.

Home Affairs Minister Wong Kan Seng, the city-state's "population czar," said boosting the number of citizens through immigration was important because "babies take many years to grow up."

Wong was quoted in the Straits Times as saying foreigners wanting to become permanent residents or citizens would soon be assessed not just based on their academic qualifications but also on their talent, skills and experience.

The potential contributions of the applicant's family members and how they could fit into the country's requirements would also be taken into consideration.

Currently, academic qualifications play a central role in deciding to admit applicants for permanent residency and citizenship.

Wong said the government would also target foreign students on scholarships here who could be convinced to settle in Singapore with their families.

"We are exploring all these points," he said.

Singapore's population comprises three million Singaporean citizens, 350,000 permanent residents and 800,000 foreigners on long-term permits.

Singapore's low birth rate has become an urgent concern after the fertility rate hit an all-time low of 1.26 children per woman in 2003.

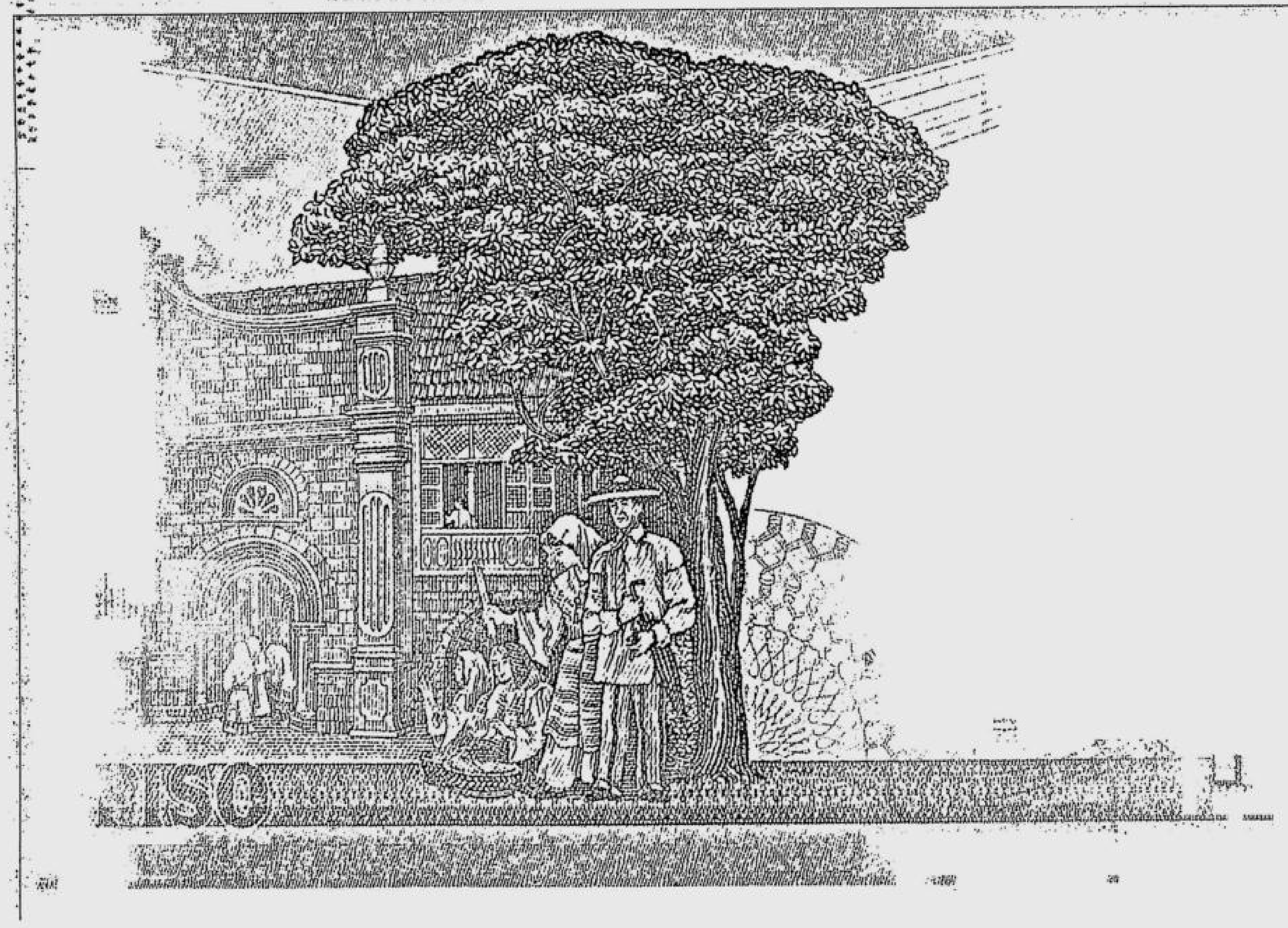
The low birth rate will also mean a higher proportion of elderly citizens in the long term, resulting in heavy social welfare costs.

About 6,500 foreigners chose to become Singaporean citizens last year, down from highs of 10,000 during the 1990s when the economy was booming.

Last month, the government unveiled a S$300 million (US$176 million) additional annual package to encourage couples to have more children and reverse the alarming fall in the birth rate.

The package includes tax relief, an extra month of maternity leave on top of the current two months, and lower levies for the right to employ a foreign maid to look after kids.

It comes on top of existing incentives worth S$500 million a year. *AFP*



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WORLDBRIEFS

India-Pakistan talks

NEW DELHI—Foreign secretaries from rival neighbors India and Pakistan began a new round of peace talks Saturday to discuss a series of festering issues, including their decades-old dispute over the Himalayan region of Kashmir. India's Foreign Secretary Shyam Saran and his Pakistani counterpart Riaz Khokhar were expected to review progress made in previous talks, and to prepare for meetings that begin Sunday between both countries' foreign ministers. The talks will focus on cross-border terrorism and trade as well as Kashmir, an Indian official said Friday on condition of anonymity. *AP*

Sanctions vs Sudan eyed

VALKENBURG, Netherlands—European Union foreign ministers were expected to back Washington's get-tough approach on Darfur at a meeting Saturday, dangling the threat of UN sanctions over Sudan's government if it does not move to end the fighting in the region. The EU ministers were to discuss a United Nations report that has called on Sudan's government to accept a much larger international monitoring force in Darfur. Arab militias called Janjaweed are blamed for violence that has killed some 30,000 people and forced over 1.2 million to flee their homes in Darfur, creating what the United Nations has called the world's worst humanitarian crisis. The Sudanese government denies accusations it backs the Janjaweed to put down black African rebel groups that have been fighting government forces since 2003. *AP*

Israel launches missile strike

GAZA CITY—Israel pressed its threatened onslaught against Hamas Saturday, launching an early morning air strike in the Gaza Strip and a major search operation in the northern West Bank following this week's deadly double suicide bombing by the Palestinian militant group. Israeli helicopters swooped down on the Maghazi refugee camp in the central Gaza Strip overnight and launched a rocket at a home suspected of being used by Hamas to manufacture weapons and explosive devices. Palestinian security sources said the building, which was targeted in a similar raid two months ago, was severely damaged, although there were no immediate reports of casualties. *AFP*

Jacko admits payoffs

LOS ANGELES—Michael Jackson admitted to making settlements to avoid court in the past in a statement issued Friday, hours before US media reported new allegations that the pop star paid $2 million (euros) to a boy who accused him of inappropriate touching. In the statement Jackson said he was responding to "untruths and sensationalism" but did not mention the report by name. "Years ago, I settled with certain individuals because I was concerned about my family and the media scrutiny that would have ensued if I fought the matter in court," the statement said. Dateline NBC reported Friday that Jackson paid more than $2 million to the son of one of his employees at his Neverland Ranch in Santa Barbara, California, after the boy accused him of fondling him through his clothes. *AFP*

Anwar prepares for surgery

KUALA LUMPUR—In high spirits, Malaysia's former deputy leader Anwar Ibrahim finalized plans Saturday to fly to Germany for back surgery to repair damage suffered partly from a police beating in custody six years ago. Three days after a court dramatically overturned a sodomy conviction and freed him from prison, Anwar told a news conference that he would be leaving by Saturday night for a specialized clinic in Munich to have the minimally invasive surgery. Anwar, claiming to be in constant pain, has been asking for four years to have surgery at the Alpha Klinik. He has increasingly been confined to a wheelchair and neck brace *AP*

Bush opens double-digit lead over rival Kerry

NEW YORK—US President George W. Bush has opened a double-digit lead over Democratic challenger John Kerry in the Nov. 2 election, according to a poll out Friday.

If the election were held today, 52 percent of likely voters would vote for Bush, 41 percent for Kerry and three percent for independent Ralph Nader, said the Time magazine survey.

The poll was taken Aug. 31 through Sept. 2, during the Republican convention in New York, but before Bush gave his nomination acceptance speech Thursday night.

Bush pulled ahead on a key issue that had been a Kerry strong point: the economy. Forty-seven percent of respondents trusted Bush to run the economy, while 45 percent trusted Kerry.

The economy and the war on terror vied for first place among respondents' concerns, with 25 and 24 percent, respectively.

When it came to conducting the war on terror, 57 percent chose Bush, 36 percent Kerry.

And as commander-in-chief of the US military, 53 percent trusted Bush, 41 percent trusted Kerry.

The poll queried 1,316 adults. The margin for error was plus or minus three percentage points. *AFP*

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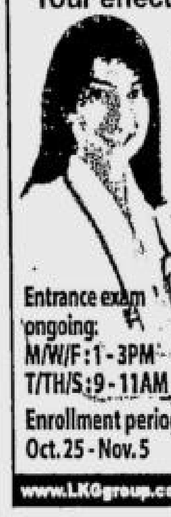
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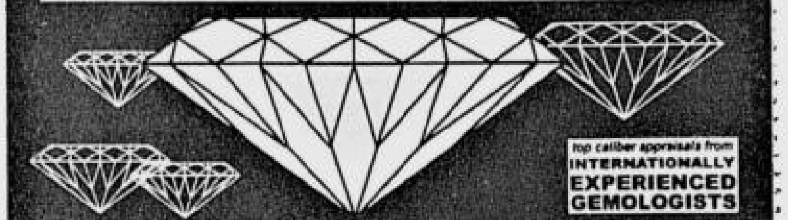
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Russia mourns 322 dead in siege

From page A1

"worst possible scenario."

Corpses were still being carried out of the gymnasium where the hostages were held by guerrillas demanding independence for Chechnya.

Dozens of unexploded bombs left by the militants inside the school building were further hampering efforts to bring out the remaining bodies.

"All of Russia suffers for you and prays together with the people of the republic," said Putin during his surprise visit to Beslan, in the Caucasian republic of North Ossetia.

He said he had ordered the region's borders closed while officials searched for everyone connected with the attack.

Putin arrived with smoke still rising from the shattered school, only hours after the last scattered shooting died away.

He visited some of the 700 people wounded in Friday's chaotic and confused storming of the school by crack troops, when gun battles raged around the building and in the nearby vicinity well into the night.

There were wrenching scenes as relatives with no news of their loved ones gathered outside the school.

"Right now at least I have a chance to identify them. I need to put something in the coffin," said Albert Kundukhov, 30, as he waited outside the school building to see his mother, wife, and daughter for the final time.

One woman was approaching every passer-by, clutching a photograph of a girl. "Please can you help, I am looking for this girl. We can't find her in any of the hospitals. Have you seen her, she is my niece? Her name is Medina ..."

Questions remained about the circumstances of the assault, which recalled the botched storming in 2002 of a Moscow theatre where 129 hostages held by Chechen rebels were killed when special forces used a powerful narcotic gas.

Putin insisted the special forces had not planned the action to free the school hostages. "We examined all possible courses of action at Beslan, but use of force was not planned," Putin told local officials.

A security service official said the guerrillas had planned the attack three days in advance, stashing the building with armaments during renovation work before it opened for the first day of school.

Triggered suddenly by a series of explosions, the assault quickly developed into a bloodbath amid scenes of screaming, bloodied children wailing in the arms of running soldiers as artillery and automatic weapons fire burst around them.

"I was sitting there with my face in my knees and my hands over my head. Then I turned my head and I saw our guys there, shooting. Three of them covered us while the fourth led us outside," one survivor, 15-year-old Yana, said.

The regional interior ministry said that most of the victims died when the school's roof caved in following massive explosions, which survivors said were caused by bombs hung from the ceiling falling down.

Inside the gym, reports spoke of rescuers finding scenes of horror, with severed limbs and hostages suffering from horrendous injuries.

The hostages had been kept since Wednesday with no food or water, packed into the gym in stifling heat. Many spoke of drinking their own urine in a desperate bid to quench their thirst.

Russian authorities said the bloody end to the standoff came after explosions apparently set off by the militants—possibly by accident—as emergency workers were entering the school to collect the bodies of slain hostages.

As hostages took their chance to flee, the militants opened fire on them, and security forces—along with town residents who had brought their own weapons—opened covering fire to help the hostages escape. Commandos stormed into the building and secured it, then chased fleeing militants in the town, with shooting lasting for 10 hours.

The Federal Security Service chief in North Ossetia, Valery Andreyev, said 32 hostage-takers were killed.

Channel One and NTV television reported that three of them had been captured. Over 10 special forces troops lost their lives in the assault, the crisis unit said.

An explosives expert told NTV television that the hostage takers, themselves strapped with explosives, had hung bombs from basketball hoops in the gym and set other explosive devices in the building. *AFP and AP*

RELATIVES examine a list of released hostages who were delivered to the hospital after Russian troops stormed a school seized by heavily armed Chechen militants in the town of Beslan in North Ossetia, Russia.

REUTERS

World horrified at bloody crisis

VALKENBURG, The Netherlands—World leaders expressed horror Friday at the bloody end to the Russian hostage crisis, calling it a tragedy which resulted from a "nauseating" and "barbaric" terrorist attack.

US President George W. Bush, speaking just days before the third anniversary of the Sept. 11 attacks on the US, said the large-scale hostage taking in Russia was "another grim reminder" of terrorist tactics and mourned the loss of life in a raid to end the standoff.

"We stand with the people of Russia, we send them our thoughts and prayers in this terrible situation," he said.

European Union (EU) foreign ministers, whose back-to-work meeting after the summer holidays was overshadowed by the Russian drama, called it a "deep human tragedy" but conceded that Moscow seemingly had no choice in the outcome.

The comments came after the fast-moving and unexpected end to the hostage crisis in the North Ossetia town of Beslan, where special Russian forces had been besieging militants holding more than 1,000 people hostage in a school.

British Prime Minister Tony Blair expressed "revulsion at the inhumanity of terrorists prepared to put children through such suffering," while Queen Elizabeth voiced her "profound shock at the events," asking Russian President Vladimir Putin to convey her "deepest sympathy to the bereaved and injured."

German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder said "terrorism must be fought wherever it presents itself."

"Terrorists with no conscience tried to achieve political objectives by killing people," he said.

UN Secretary General Kofi Annan condemned all terrorist acts. "He was horrified to learn that a large number of children and others have lost their lives or were injured during the last few hours," his spokesperson said.

The Vatican lamented the "astonishing ferocity" with which the hostage crisis ended. Messages of condolences also came in from Greece, Israel, Egypt and Portugal among other countries.

Governments across the Asia-Pacific region joined in a chorus of condemnation Saturday, squarely blaming the militants who took hundreds of school children in Russia hostage for the deaths of 250 people.

From Australia to India, leaders expressed solidarity with Putin in his handling of the crisis that ended in the early hours of Saturday after a nearly three-day standoff.

Australian Prime Minister John Howard condemned the hostage takers as depraved, obscene and cruel. He said he had sent a message to Putin expressing his shock and dismay at the siege in the North Ossetia town of Beslan.

Targeting children, he said, "represents the ultimate depravity of terrorist activity. No political grievance can justify such behavior."

China said it too supported Russia's handling of the crisis.

"China supports the Russian government's efforts in fighting against terrorism and is willing to join hands with the international community to fight resolutely against terrorism and to maintain justice and peace," foreign ministry spokesperson Kong Quan said in a statement.

China is battling separatists in its Muslim-populated Xinjiang region and is keen to gain international support for its role in the fight against those it considers terrorists.

Another country battling Muslim separatists, Thailand, expressed revulsion over the hostage-taking and regretted that a peaceful resolution could not have been found.

"We are shocked and saddened by the loss of lives in the incident and we condemn the hostage taking of innocent civilians that led to this crisis," Thai foreign ministry spokesperson Sihasak Phuangketkeow said.

Thailand is grappling with its own separatist movement in its Muslim majority deep south.

Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh sent a letter to Putin lauding the Russian security forces for their "measured action" in ending the crisis but also regretted the heavy loss of life. *AFP*

'RP shares Russia's pain and anguish'

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo said yesterday the Philippines shared Russia's "pain and anguish" over the bloody end to a school hostage drama that left more than 300 people dead in North Ossetia.

"The Filipino people have experienced the pain and anguish of having school children and teachers held hostage in Basilan," Arroyo spokesperson Ignacio Bunye said, citing the case of Abu Sayyaf militants who raided a Catholic school on the southern Philippine island four years ago.

"We express our deepest sympathy to the families of the victims of the hostage crisis in Russia," Bunye said in a written statement.

"We hope and pray that the crisis will be solved in the soonest possible time with the least cost to human lives and suffering."

He told RMN radio that the incident showed terrorism recognized no boundaries, and that it was important for the Philippines to be ready to respond to such threats.

Controversial bills stir new debates on policy

From page A1

dergone an abortion.

Under HB 16 and SB 2325, hospitals and medical professionals cannot refuse treatment to a woman who has developed post-abortion complications, the two lawmakers said.

They were quick to add that their pitch for post-abortion care came with the reiteration of the state's duty to prevent abortions through effective RH programs.

Shades of gray

"There should be no conflict between my bill and the policy against abortion. Under HB 16, abortion is not among the recommended, legal and safe methods of family planning," Lagman said.

He said the bill was pushing for "a humane policy that would enable us to assist women in distress, who, out of desperation, had resorted to abortion even if it is illegal."

He added: "We give three square meals a day to convicted prisoners but it does not mean we're encouraging the commission of crimes. We treated Commander Robot or death row inmates when they were sick. We don't let a captured rebel die of hemorrhage or infection; we bring him to a government hospital to be treated, so that the necessary penalty can be imposed on him.

"In this world, there are no compartments of black and white, only shades of gray."

Lagman, whose bill had caused a stir for proposing incentives for couples who would limit the number of their children to two, said the provision on post-abortion care was well-received by women's groups, lawyers and health workers.

Non-judgmental

"But they thought my bill was not enough. They asked: 'Why not legalize abortion?' I don't want to cross that [line] at the moment. My bill is controversial enough; I need more supporters than opponents," he said.

Biazon's bill states that the government, while not changing the present laws on abortion, must ensure that women seeking care for post-abortion complications "shall be treated and counseled in a humane, non-judgmental and compassionate manner."

"Whether the abortion is self-induced or accidental should be immaterial," Biazon said. "When a bleeding woman shows up at the hospital, do we really need to investigate first whether she had gone to an abortionist or simply fell down the stairs?

"And even granting that she confesses that the abortion is [induced], would it be humane for us to deny her assistance? That would be tantamount to giving her a death sentence."

One must take note that the Revised Penal Code merely sets jail terms for illegal abortion, Biazon said.

He said he was inclined to include a provision in the bill that would penalize medical staff or institutions refusing post-abortion treatment to a woman.

Biazon admitted that his bill had earned him detractors who interpreted it as an endorsement of abortion.

"I'm definitely against [abortion] because it's a crime and a sin. What I'm talking about here is the right of the woman to be treated [medically]," he said.

Life or death

Lagman conceded that should his bill become law and post-abortion care became more accessible as a matter of right, a woman availing herself of the service might be exposing herself as a lawbreaker.

This legislation may reduce the social stigma of a woman showing up at a hospital desperate for post-abortion treatment, but it will not free her from criminal liability.

"That is really the situation: She has a choice whether to die of complications from abortion, or live yet face prosecution," Lagman said.

But he pointed out: "Considering that prosecution of abortion cases is not that stringent in this country, the woman might as well go [for medical treatment]. *Buti nang harapin natin ang batas kaysa harapin ang libingan* (We have better chances facing the law than the grave)."

Women want good program put in place

By Stella O. Gonzales

THE WOMEN and groups interviewed for this report gave varying recommendations on how illegal abortion—and its resultant life-threatening complications—could be avoided, if not stopped.

But all agreed on one urgent action: to put in place a health program for women who develop post-abortion complications.

If women are turned away from hospitals or are humiliated by healthcare workers because they are suspected of having had an abortion, where and who will they turn to?

"They'll go to the traditional *hilot*, to the quack doctors who will further jeopardize their lives," said Dr. Honorata Catibog of the Department of Health Family Health Division.

There is a DOH administrative order institutionalizing a program on the prevention and management of abortions and its complications (PMAC). But can this be fully implemented under a government that is not too keen on the idea of reproductive health?

The nongovernment organization called EngenderHealth was able to start in 2000 a PMAC program in 17 pilot hospitals. But with no new funding from abroad, it had to stop the program this year.

Dr. Junice Melgar, executive director of Likhaan, a women's NGO, said they had realized that the issue of abortion was "an uphill climb" and would be "content with even just the enforcement of PMAC."

The Philippine reproductive health care program must be strengthened if there is to be a significant drop in the number of women undergoing abortions, according to Dr. Corazon Raymundo, who has done studies on abortion in the country.

Raymundo's study in 2001 showed that the main reason for abortion was unwanted pregnancy.

"So we must prevent unwanted pregnancies if we want to prevent abortions," she said, adding that health officials and policymakers should make it "unnecessary" for women to have an abortion by offering them a serious family planning program.

Melgar observed that many women's groups were very strong on political and economic issues but were not as focused on personal issues affecting women, like contraception.

"Reproductive health is not in their agenda," she said.

Melgar said the large membership of women's groups should be tapped so abortions, or at least a number, could be prevented through family planning.

But she warned against the common belief that having a strong family planning program would completely stop abortions. She said that there were still failures in family planning methods and that women had other reasons for resorting to abortion apart from not wanting yet another child.

Raymundo wants abortion decriminalized.

Because abortion is illegal in the country and a study of the University of the Philippines' Population Institute has estimated the number of women who commit the "crime" at least 400,000 a year, one would expect the prisons to be bursting at the seams.

"But have you heard of a woman thrown in jail because she had an abortion? If you arrest all these women, our penitentiaries would be full, and so many young children would lose their mothers," Raymundo said.

"Why does society look the other way even when it knows of someone who had an abortion? A law can only be effective if it goes with the train of thought and norms of society," she pointed out.

Indeed, when a law is not implemented, what is it there for?

Melgar, on the other hand, wants abortion legalized, even on a limited scale.

She recalled a bill filed in 1999 by Camarines Sur Rep. Roy Padilla seeking to legalize abortion in special cases, such as when a woman had been raped or was in danger of losing her life.

"We would have been content if they passed even just the portion 'promoting the woman's health and saving her life.' But even that was attacked as promoting a culture of death and being anti-life," Melgar said.

Church: All women are entitled to treatment

By Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

LINGAYEN, Pangasinan—The Catholic Church frowns on abortion but it recognizes the right of post-abortion women to appropriate medical care.

"All are entitled to post-abortion care" although a distinction must be made between women who had an abortion against their will, and were thus victims, and those who chose it, said Lingayen-Dagupan Archbishop Oscar Cruz.

"It's hard to deny that abortion has a traumatic effect, especially on the woman," added Cruz, a former president of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines.

"Even if it is against her will or in accordance with her will, there is always a remnant of fear, of repentance and of guilt," he said. "It is not a pleasant experience, whether it is a spontaneous abortion or whether the woman is forced to abort her own child."

Cruz believes that with post-abortion care, many women will be made more conscious "that abortion is wrong, no matter how you look at it."

And a post-abortion care program may be a vehicle for responsible parenthood: "The woman will know that abortion is wrong and will not resort to it anymore, and will be more responsible whenever she gets pregnant."

Text messages to boost 'Bayanihan Fund' urged

From page A1

Class of '62 to donate their jewelry to the government to help address the national fiscal crisis, class president Hector Villanueva wants the country's estimated 10 million cellular phone owners to share their text messages.

Villanueva said he would propose to both Smart and Globe, the countries' two biggest telecommunication companies, to invite subscribers to donate at least five text messages a day for six months.

"We send jokes and silly text messages all the time. Can we not share a portion with our government which needs our help?" he said.

Villanueva, who is also the mayor of Bais City in Negros Oriental, said he would meet with the presidents of Smart and Globe when he goes to Manila next week to discuss his proposal.

"This will be a big amount because we are talking of millions of cell phone subscribers," he said.

According to Villanueva's estimate, if just half of all the cell phone owners pledged five text messages a day, or P5, the government could collect P4.5 billion in six months.

He sent text messages to friends about his proposal, which he named "Text 'N Save for Love of Country," and the response was good. In Bais City alone, some 40 people pledged to join the campaign.

In spite of the attention his fund-raising ideas have been getting, Villanueva said he preferred to stay on the sidelines. The jewelry donation, which his class started last week, was actually a project of the Silliman alumni.

The university has promised to support activities of its alumni who will solicit pledges to help the government weather the fiscal crisis and find a solution to the P5.3 trillion national debt.

Leonor Magtolis Briones, former chair of the Freedom from Debt Coalition and chair of the board of trustees of Silliman University, said the university wanted to help the government find solutions to the budget deficit.

"Long before the government admitted there was a fiscal crisis, Social Watch Philippines, which includes many Sillimanians, had already alerted officials to the scenario," she said.

Work on North Rail project to start soon

From page A1

that the Chinese government had released the $400 million for the first phase and that the Chinese Eximbank had approved in principle the funding of both the second phase and its feasibility study.

"Since the $400 million has been released, construction can now begin," she said.

When told that construction would begin next month, the President frowned and said: "I don't understand why there has to be some delay. Why can't we start now? Ideally, if I would have my way, we should have held our *pulong bayan* there."

She asked for Cortez, who was then having coffee somewhere on the LRT 2 platform, and told him: "Can you now start the North Rail because China has released the $400 million?"

Cortez said the Chinese group would arrive sometime this month but that the relocation of squatters along the North Rail route was the one factor causing the delay.

Vice President De Castro, the newly appointed housing czar, butted in at this point and said the National Housing Authority had removed the squatters in the North Rail area in Caloocan City.

"We cleared Caloocan. All we have to do is to guard [the place]," he said.

But Ms Arroyo said: "Instead of guarding, construct now in areas that have been cleared. Otherwise, [the squatters] will come back."

P1B per km

The President defended the North Rail project from criticism that it was overpriced. Reports had said that it would be the most expensive rail project at P1 billion per kilometer.

"I read something in the newspapers, maybe it came from the losing bidder," she said. "Anyway, I read that the North Rail was allegedly overpriced, so let's have it answered by Romy Neri."

National Economic and Development Authority chair Romulo Neri proceeded to explain.

He said the North Rail project was initially pegged at P1.06 billion for the first 40 km under a Spanish-Japanese conglomerate but that this did not push through because the price was high and the Japanese financiers wanted half the number of squatters in the area removed before they would even come in.

"So nothing happened. Then the Chinese proposal came, [wherein] for only P500 million we can build a 33-km line to Malolos," he said. But he did not say how much the rest of the route would cost.

B is for budget

Before the *pulong bayan* ended, Ms Arroyo was asked by program host Giselle Sanchez what the acronym "Beat the ods" meant.

She said it stood for the 10 priority programs that she wanted to implement during her six-year term and that she mentioned during her inaugural speech last June 30: "B—Balanced budget, E—Education for all, A—Automated elections, T—Transport infrastructure, T—Terminate NPA and MILF hostilities, H—Heal the wounds of Edsa 1, 2 and 3, E—Electricity for all, O—Opportunities for livelihood and jobs, D—Decongestion of Metro Manila, and S—Subic and Clark alliance."

Ambahan Sr. dies at 68

MAMERTO "Mert" Anam Ambahan Sr. died last Sept. 2. He was 68.

His remains lie at the Bollozos Funeral Homes, Butuan City.

A funeral Mass will be celebrated at the Butuan City Cathedral at 2 p.m. tomorrow. Interment will immediately follow at the Butuan City Chinese Cemetery.

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Mega Manila Households (6am-12mn) • January 1 - August 28, 2004

AMONG NON-CABLE TV HOMES

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GMA	14.9	GMA	18.0
ABS-CBN	13.9	ABS-CBN	16.7

AMONG CABLE TV HOMES

NIELSEN MEDIA PHILS.		AGB PHILS.	
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GMA	7.9	GMA	10.9

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Mega Manila Households (6am-12mn) • January 1 - August 28, 2004

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GMA	12.9	GMA	16.3
ABS-CBN	12.2	ABS-CBN	16.1

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Pinoy Idols

SMART Padala endorser Robin Padilla speaks from the heart

“Ikaw ang bagong bayani ng Pilipinas!”

"Ikaw ang bagong bayani ng Pilipinas!" roared action superstar Robin Padilla to an estimated 22,000 Hong Kong-based Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) gathered at the famed Hong Kong Stadium last Sunday, August 29th. Despite pouring rain, all of the OFWs in the stadium united for one of the largest overseas Filipino events in recent history – a showbiz-packed launch for 1528 SMART, the first international pre-paid service offering from PLDT's SMART Communications.

"This service is really important, as I can keep in touch with my loved ones better, have access to features that make me feel like I'm back home, and more importantly, help me remit much-needed monies back to my family safer and faster than ever before," said Anita dela Cruz, a domestic helper who has worked in Hong Kong's Mid-Levels for more than 11 years.

"Being an OFW is a rough life. I know that times are tough for us back home, but abroad, even though we earn bigger salaries, we give up so much more – our communities, friendships, and sometimes because of the work we do, our dignity. In a small way 1528 SMART helps me be proud to be Filipino. And I'm so glad to be able to contribute to a Filipino company instead of a foreign one," added Anita.

A partnership of PLDT Global Inc., SMART Communications, both wholly-owned subsidiaries of PLDT, AsiaMoney's Overall Best-Managed Company for 2003, as well as HK CSL, 1528 SMART is the first Filipino-branded wireless service to be offered in the international market.

Developed by SMART, spearheaded by PLDT Global and offered on the backbone of Hong Kong mobile carrier CSL Limited, 1528 SMART enables OFWs to become actual SMART subscribers. OFWs enjoy preferential calling and SMS-text rates to the Philippines, access a host of electronic top-ups and content already being extensively used and in demand with SMART subscribers in the Philippines and avail of innovations specifically developed for the OFW market, such as the revolutionary SMART PADALA.

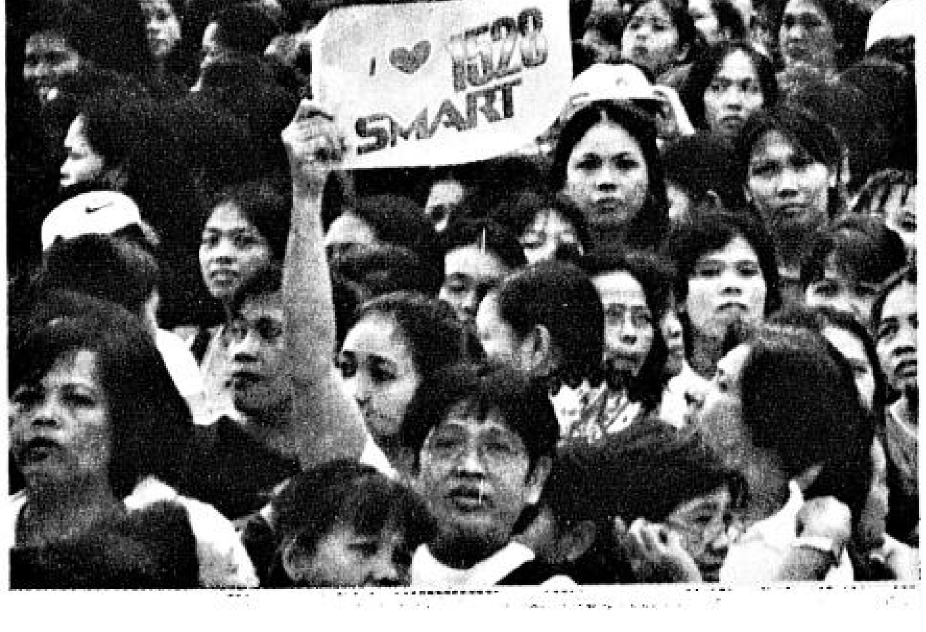
"1528 Smart is easy to use! I bought my 1528 SMART starter pack at Worldwide Plaza for $100 Hong Kong and immediately replaced my Hong Kong pre-paid service with it. I was logged onto the CSL network immediately – it looked like, and made me feel like I was holding home right in my hand," said Geronimo Alcazaren.

1528 SMART is the first of an array of mobile products and services from the PLDT Group that will be aggressively offered to the more than 8 million OFWs around the world. But while the OFW market represents smart business, 1528 also has purely emotional origins.

"I think of myself as one of the first OCWs," said PLDT and SMART Chairman Manuel V. Pangilinan. "I know how it is to try and seek a better fortune abroad. You tell yourself that it's only going to be for 2-3 years. More often than not, it becomes much longer. It thus gives me extreme pride to note that 1528 SMART brings something far more intangible – the sense of being connected to home – right to the palm and the heart of the any OCW. Let me tell you from experience, when you're abroad, no matter how long or far away from the Philippines, there's nothing better than being connected with home."

1528 SMART is offered by PLDT's wireless subsidiary SMART COMMUNICATIONS, Inc. Now in its 75th year, the PLDT Group is committed to Thinking Ahead. Connecting all Filipinos around the world, all the time.

Angelica dela Cruz sings to thousands of guests that filled the Hong Kong stadium



Hong Kong based OFWs flocked to the 1528 SMART launch despite the rain

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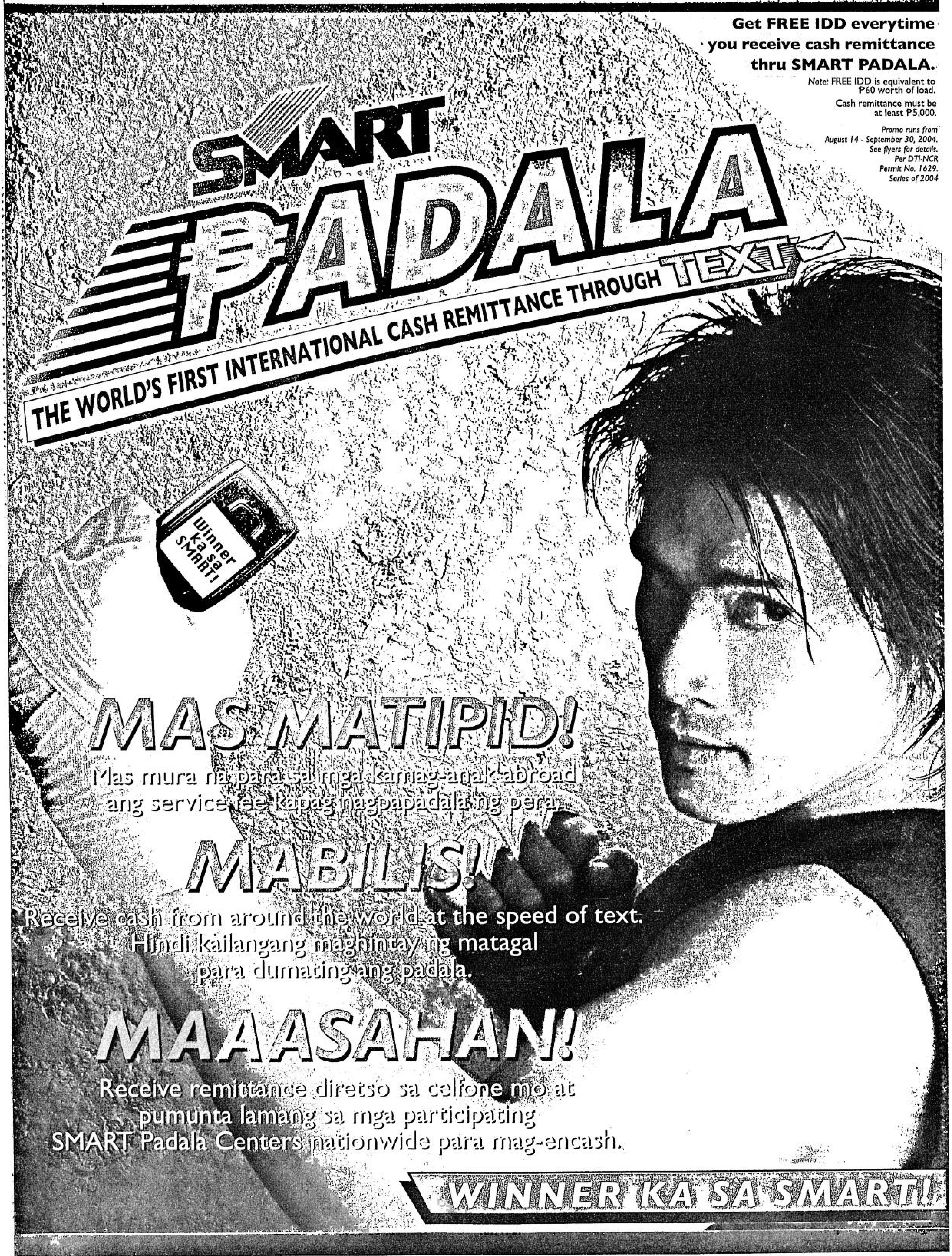
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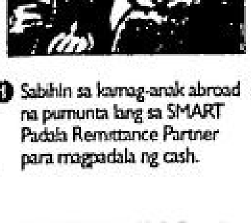
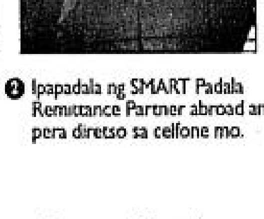
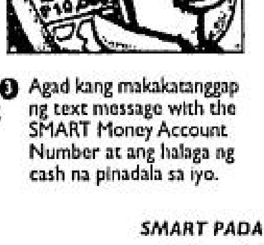


❶ Sabihin sa kamag-anak abroad na pumunta lang sa SMART Padala Remittance Partner para magpadala ng cash.

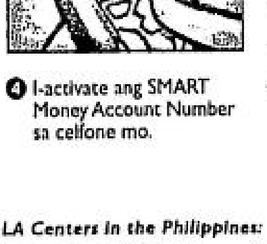


❷ Ipapadala ng SMART Padala Remittance Partner abroad ang pera diretso sa celfone mo.

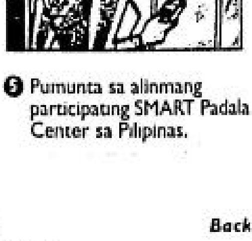
Beneficiary receives cash in the Philippines:



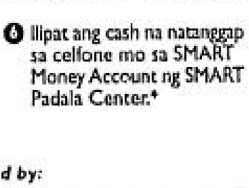
❸ Agad kang makakatanggap ng text message with the SMART Money Account Number at ang halaga ng cash na pinadala sa iyo.



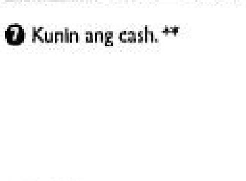
❹ I-activate ang SMART Money Account Number sa celfone mo.



❺ Pumunta sa alinmang participating SMART Padala Center sa Pilipinas.



❻ Ilipat ang cash na natanggap sa celfone mo sa SMART Money Account ng SMART Padala Center.*



❼ Kunin ang cash.**

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EDITORIALS

Arroyo's folly

IT wasn't only her family that went on vacation last week; President Macapagal-Arroyo's sense of proportion also went on holiday. Her decision to bring her extended family—her second son, her two daughters-in-law, and her grandchildren and their nannies—on her state visit to China would have been eyebrow-raising in the best of times. But in the middle of a fiscal crisis? The decision was a terrible mistake.

We have no doubt that the non-official members of the President's delegation to China paid their own way. Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye defended Ms Arroyo's decision precisely on that ground. But the issue is not whether government money was used. It is whether Ms Arroyo has set the right example.

The issue is whether, as the leader of a country facing fiscal difficulties, the President believes the spirit of self-sacrifice she has invoked—and which she said the country needs—applies to her and her family as well.

From her, the answer, apparently, is No.

The decision cast a shadow over the China visit, the President's second since 2001. "Right now we have forgotten the benefits of the agreements that the President would bring back from her trip," Bunye said plaintively on Friday.

Now whose fault is that? By allowing almost her entire family to tag along, the President herself invited the inevitable criticism. But in a bizarre turn, Bunye all but blamed the media for writing about the "Arroyo family vacation."

"Our appeal is don't make the issue any bigger and instead focus on the positive results of the President's visit," he said. To be sure, there are any number of positive results, beginning with the state visit itself, a sign of both better bilateral relations and China's increasingly important role on the global stage. But if the positive is overshadowed by the negative, Bunye's boss is the one to blame.

Thus, simply on the level of the politics of state visits, the President's decision was a mistake. It distracted public attention, it undercut the administration's own economic and foreign-policy objectives, it cluttered the message.

On the level of crisis politics, however, the decision was an even bigger, worse mistake. It needlessly undermined the President's moral authority to call for greater self-sacrifice. Beyond the public clamor for the reduction or the outright abolition of the pork barrel, beyond the flurry of citizens' donations to the so-called Bayanihan Fund, beyond the President's own call for austerity in government, the most important anti-crisis measure waits: new taxes.

These require the President's savvy use of her political capital, which includes popular support, or at least the lack of organized public resistance. But the "Arroyo family vacation" in China makes public support for unpopular reforms even more difficult.

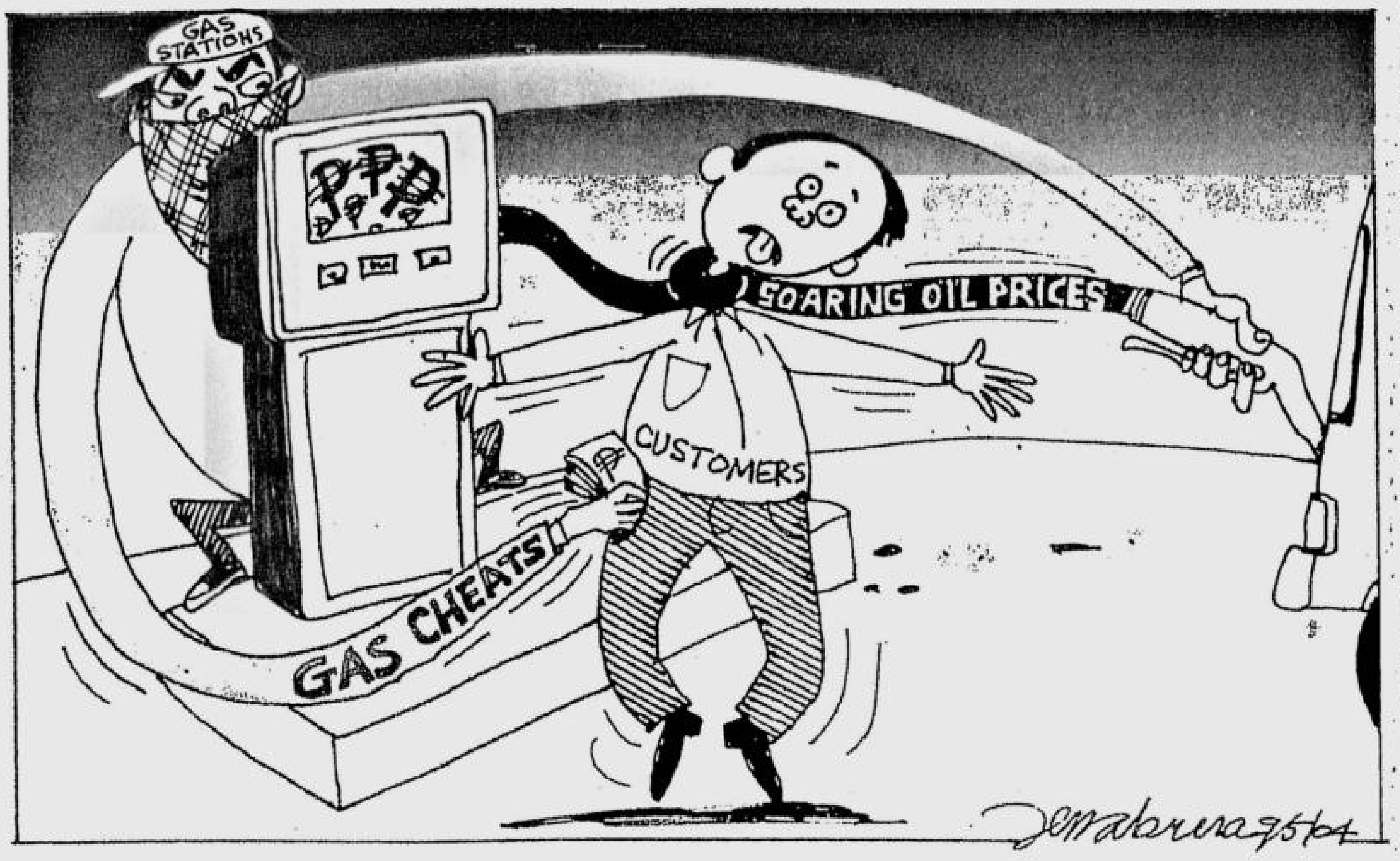
Arroyo's rhetoric

IN HER State of the Nation Address last July, President Macapagal-Arroyo mustered the clichés of self-sacrifice one more time, as she called on all Filipinos to bear the "tough decisions" that needed to be made.

"It must be tougher on those who've had it easy than on those who've had it tough already." And again: "We must bear the pain and share the pain to enjoy the gain together." And yet again: "Those with more must sacrifice more; those with less are already living lives of self-sacrifice."

Now that a fiscal crisis is upon us, one would think that the President's appeal to self-sacrifice has become even more necessary (although we hope she does better than call the roll of tired and tiresome phrases another time). But what the President did does not square with what the President said.

Austerity begins at home.



Knocking at the portals of the bar

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

TODAY being the first Sunday of September, it will mark the beginning of the annual bar examinations to be held on the four weekends of this month. According to the Bar Confidant of the Supreme Court, 5,422 applicants have registered to take the tests, 3,002 being first timers and the rest repeaters. The fee of the former is P2,250 and the latter pay an additional P250 per failure. All of them will be subjected to the same examinations.

The subjects of the examinations are Political Law and International Law in the morning and Labor Law in the afternoon for the first Sunday, Civil Law and Taxation for the second Sunday, Commercial Law and Criminal Law for the third Sunday, and Remedial Law and Legal Ethics and Practical Exercises for the last Sunday.

The examinations will be a gauge not only of the candidates' abilities but also of the examiners' competence to test them. One could say that at the time of the examinations, the average students, and more so the exceptional ones, know more law than the examiners. But this has got to be proved by the candidates to the satisfaction of the examiners.

The examiners are usually and not necessarily especially conversant with the subject assigned to them. I have suggested that the examiners be experts or at least knowledgeable of their respective assignments, but this has been rejected on the ground that they will tend to be unduly strict with the examinees.

This is how professors are with their students in the better law schools, but the Supreme Court seems to prefer the examiners to be less informed than the examinees. This has resulted at times to the prejudice of the examinees.

Decades ago, an examiner simply copied his questions from a quizzer without even changing the names and the dates in the problems; worse, they called for the application of old decisions, not the current doctrines the students had studied. That examiner could not even compose his own original questions, and it is doubtful if he knew the new answers to the old questions he plagiarized.

Only a few years ago, the examiner asked for the distinctions between recognition de jure and de facto of states, instead of governments. In that same examination, the examiner spoke of the budget and the general appropriations bill as if they were synonymous when professors in Political Law make it a point to distinguish between the two terms.

In my own examination in 1951, we were asked what kind of nuisance a *bagoong* factory was, and I correctly wrote it was *per accidens*. When I got my examination notebook five years later, I found that answer with a big cross. The examiner held the nuisance as per se and therefore could be abated summarily, that is, without judicial permission. I was deducted for being right.

And, yes, when I used the word "trifling," that superficial fellow encircled it as wrong, thus confessing that he was also deficient in vocabulary. That examiner will be nameless here for pity's sake, but God rest his soul in the purgatory of the ignorant.

Problems like these may be due to the practice of confining the identity of the examiners only to the chair of the bar examining committee and the Chief Justice, who are thus the only persons who can judge their competence. The rest of the justices learn their names only after the examinations, when the results are submitted to the banc for its approval and it is too late to make amends.

The reason for such secrecy is to prevent undue identification of the examiners and their possible subornation. Even without such precaution, however, irregularities have happened in the bar examinations, probably as a result of such disclosure or some other corrupt cause. The test in Taxation was invalidated years ago and Commercial Law only last year for leakage of the questions, and during the 1920s an honorable justice resigned when his niece falsified the bar results.

The end of the examinations is celebrated by the candidates like a thorn that has been pulled out ("*nabunutan ng tinik*") with parades, music, dancing in the streets, and delirious howling. Many of the examinees will release their tensions in beer. Most of them will go out with their spouses or sweethearts and enjoy those pleasures they denied themselves during the past four weeks.

What will follow next are the months of prayer, worry, hope and despair as they await the release of the results of the tests. These will determine if they will become lawyers after their years of study, or they should study some more and take another examination, and perhaps another, and still another, if they should be so unlucky or plain undeserving to enter the fastidious portals of the bar.

I pray for the bar candidates, having also endured their anxieties. I hope all of them will pass the examinations with the help of St. Judas Thaddeus, the patron saint of the impossible, and become honorable members of the greatest profession in the world.

Parting

MOMENTS

Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD

ACCORDING to hair stylists, there are three kinds of men when it comes to hair: some men have their hair parted; others have their hair unparted; and and the rest have their hair departed!

* * *

The Gospel today (Lk. 14, 25-33) speaks about parting with one's possessions and loved ones as a requirement for discipleship. A disciple must be free from attachments so that he can be free for his/her commitment. "Freedom from" should lead to "freedom for."

* * *

It can happen that someone is single and detached, and be just that. There are people like that, sitting on the fence, and having the best of both worlds. Some people go through life all wrapped up in themselves. Such people may have their hands full, but their hearts are empty. In the end, he who lives only for himself doesn't have much really to live for. What are you living for? Who are you living for?

* * *

Try lifting up a chair and putting it away from your body as far as possible. In this position, the chair gets heavier and heavier every second.

Now, try to bring the chair as close to your body as possible. Yes, literally embrace it, and it is not that heavy anymore. It is the same way with the crosses that we carry in our lives. For as long as we refuse, run away, complain, resent and fight our crosses in life, they will only become heavy. But if we embrace them, and embrace the Jesus on the cross, then we experience lightness, freedom and peace. If a trial comes your way, embrace it. If any relationship needs healing or mending in your life, face it. If there is any bad habit that needs to be given up, confront it. If there is any duty or responsibility you should do, do it. And if there is any commitment you should honor, fulfill it. And if there are people you should talk to, or confront or appreciate, go to them and open your heart. The more you run away, the more you deny, the more you postpone, the heavier the cross becomes.

* * *

A religious once confessed: "When I was young, chastity was my problem. When I reached mid-life, poverty was my problem. And now, in my sunset years, obedience is my problem." How true. Parting with the desire for worldly pleasures is not easy. Parting with the desire for worldly comforts and riches is not easy. Parting with the desire for control is not easy. It is a continuous struggle. It never really ends. And yet, we go on, carry our cross daily, and with God's grace, hope to come to His final embrace, someday.

* * *

The Gospel today also speaks about a fellow who began to build a house, laid its foundation, and was not able to finish it. In Loboc, Bohol, there is this massive unused and unfinished bridge that stops right in front of the town's historic church. How in the first place the bridge came to be built is a mystery to me. Did the builders actually believe they can tear down the old church? Was it a case of wrong projections, overconfidence, or even deceit? Questions. Questions. But the message is clear: We approach God with humility, depending not so much on ourselves, but on His grace.

* * *

The more I reflect on the unfinished Loboc bridge, the more I realize the importance of our ability to part with our own plans, our own agenda and our own strength when it comes to doing God's work. Such a massive and showy bridge, but it is good for nothing. It got so filled with itself, and never delivered to others. Such is the picture of many of us, so-called "bridges," political and religious leaders who become fattened pigs and never quite give away our own pork. May we become more self-sacrificing and more self-effacing.

* * *

With the onset of September, Christmas is not far behind. Somehow, the thought of Christmas gives us hope for better and more peaceful days ahead. This early, if you are a true disciple, start thinking already what you can do as give-away for others instead of worrying on what to spend for yourself. A disciple must continue to listen with the Lord's ear, see with the Lord's eye, speak with the Lord's mouth, and love with the Lord's heart. The challenge remains: He must increase, I must decrease.

* * *

Sept. 8 is Mama Mary's birthday. Here was a disciple who knew what parting is early on, until she had to part with her son in a most excruciating manner at Calvary. What made her strong is the "Big Picture." She knew in her heart that there was a reason and mission in everything. May we all continue to be strong so as to have the courage to leave behind all that is dearest if the road of discipleship so requires.

* * *

Think about this: The enemies of personal peace are regrets over yesterday's mistakes; anxiety over tomorrow's problems; and ingratitude for today's blessings.

* * *

A moment with the Lord

Lord, help me to learn how to part, so that when from this world I depart, of you I will be a part. Amen.

Driving in America

REVEILLE

Ramon J. Farolan

CHICAGO, Illinois—Over the years, our usual entry point to the United States has been either Los Angeles or San Francisco. However, Philippine Airlines early this year inaugurated a new route: Manila-Vancouver-Las Vegas and we decided to check it out. You leave Manila at 4 p.m. instead of 10 p.m. and arrive at your destination, the McCarran International Airport in Las Vegas, at around 5:30 in the afternoon of the same day after a brief stopover in Vancouver. Many of the passengers actually get off in Vancouver so there are not too many lining up for immigration formalities in Vegas, which is one advantage of this route aside from the early arrival. If you like to gamble a bit before proceeding to other points in the United States, this itinerary is tailor-made for you.

Las Vegas is Spanish for "the meadows" and is probably one of the top tourist destinations in America, with some 36 million visitors registered last year. It is also a favorite convention site for a lot of business corporations, foreign as well as local. In the early '90s, there was a move to refurbish its image as a child-friendly vacation destination for families. Lately, however, the trend has been to once again market the city as a place for adult entertainment. Small wonder, it is referred to by many as "Sin City."

There are three major activities to choose from in Las Vegas: gambling, taking in the different shows along the strip, and sightseeing. We did all three.

A few notes. When gambling, don't expect to win a fortune. Remember, it is a form of entertainment, and you will enjoy yourself more if you observe two basic rules: First, set a limit for the evening and leave when the limit is reached. Second, quit while ahead. Believe me, both rules are easier said than observed.

I decided to try my luck at the blackjack table and chose one with a Filipino-looking dealer. It turned out he was a Pinoy from Cebu but, his name tag read "Sato." He was not inclined to offer any explanation. After a while, $200 poorer, I called it a night.

The next day, we took in a show at the Jubilee Theater of Bally's, featuring a Filipino group, the Society of Seven with singer Lani Misalucha. They performed very well before a full house, dishing out popular songs, classical numbers and doing great impersonations. Watching our people perform before a foreign crowd was quite an experience especially since you could feel the enthusiasm of the audience. I understand the group has a six-month contract, which is a first for Filipino artists in Las Vegas.

Perhaps, the most exciting part of our visit was the trip to the Grand Canyon. A bus took us from the hotel to North Las Vegas Airport where we boarded a C-19 aircraft which flew us to the North Rim of the canyon. We landed on an airstrip at the Hualapai Indian reservation and transferred to a helicopter flown by a lovely pilot who had just left the Air Force. She dove our chopper straight down to the floor of the canyon, a distance of more than a mile and deposited us just beside the Colorado River where a waiting boat took us a few miles upstream. The scenery was stunning with rock formations—that took millions of years in the making—on both sides of the river. The canyon is home to 90 species of mammals, 350 species of birds and more than 1,500 species of plants and vegetation. Without doubt, the Grand Canyon, 270 river miles long, is one of the great natural wonders of the world.

By the way, Las Vegas may be Sin City but, it has more churches per capita than any comparably sized city in the United States. Our favorite is the Guardian Angel Cathedral, a par-4 distance away from the Stardust Hotel. It accepts casino chips for the collection basket and is a good place to pray for lady luck before hitting the blackjack or baccarat tables.

* * *

Evanston, Illinois is home to Northwestern University where our daughter Carmela finished at the Medill School of Journalism. Part of her work these days is editing a soon-to-be-published book about a Landing Ship Tank (LST) which participated in the Leyte and Lingayen landings during the Pacific War. Her main job, however, is taking care of a livewire of a daughter, one and a half year old, Gisele.

Some 35 miles southwest of Chicago is Woodridge, a community of roughly 20,000 people exemplifying the best of small town USA. Our eldest son, Miguel, has been here for close to 10 years. It is a good place for raising his kids, Christine and Nicole. The school system is one of the best in the country and the pace of life is much slower than in the big city. Close by is the National Shrine of St. Therese of Lisieux. The shrine, run by the Carmelites, is home to the most beautiful collection of relics, personal effects and memorabilia of Therese outside of France.

* * *

Why do I drive more carefully here than in the Philippines? The obvious answer is that the traffic laws here are strictly enforced. But, I think there is more to it than enforcement of the law. You observe how others drive around. They are courteous; they don't try to unduly take advantage of others; they observe rules and regulations. At street corners without lights, they take turns crossing on a first-come first-go basis. This implies discipline, patience, safety consciousness and respect for others. When you drive in this environment, you tend to follow the natives. It is not so much the fear of being caught. It is also consideration for others who are considerate of you.

Stories from London

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

LONDON—It wasn't all speeches, polemics, research papers and debates at the just-concluded "Countdown 2015," a global roundtable sponsored by civil society, to mark the 10th anniversary of the International Conference on Population and Development held in Cairo.

There were also stories, told by "real" people, individuals who lived their stories and, in so doing, embodied issues that emerged in Cairo or have captured public attention only recently. Here are some of those stories, prefaced by a passage from the roundtable declaration that places their personal tales in the context of a larger reality.

* * *

"WE want a world where women and girls do not die in childbirth and pregnancy; where they have access to safe and legal abortion; and where women and men can decide freely and responsibly whether and when to have children."

Flavia's story was shared by Lilian Abracinskas, coordinator of an organization in Uruguay called "Mujer y Salud (Women and Health)."

Flavia lived in a poor farming community with her parents. She was just 16 and had a six-month-old son. When Flavia's period came late, she assumed the worst and feared that she was pregnant again, having "practically no knowledge" about reproduction and not knowing who or where to turn to for information and services. Flavia knew one thing, though: she could not add another mouth to feed to a family already living in abject poverty.

Deathly afraid of telling anyone about her situation, Flavia sought to terminate her pregnancy by herself, inserting a pesticide into her vagina. Soon the poison invaded her entire body. Her family rushed her to the nearest hospital. The doctors, unfamiliar with the poison used, tried in vain to find an antidote. When they did, it was too late. Flavia died of heart attack. An autopsy revealed she was not even pregnant.

* * *

"WE want a world where young people have a supportive environment in which to practice their human rights and engage as active citizens; and where all adolescents in and out of school have access to comprehensive sexuality education."

Her name is Nayara and she hails from Piaui, Brazil, growing up in the *favelas*, the shanty towns of her city. "When you met in Cairo to develop the Programme of Action, I was 6 years old," she told the roundtable participants. "Now I am 16 and I am here in London, participating in this important meeting." But what she wanted to do more than anything was to share the story of her friend Mikhayl.

Nayara met him in prison, where he landed after he was found to be high on drugs even if he did not have any drugs on him and was not a drug dealer. In that "truly horrible jail," Nayara was conducting workshops for the mostly young prisoners, including Mikhayl, imparting skills and working with them so they do not land in jail again.

But there was a fire in the jail, and there was no way to get Mikhayl and six other teenage inmates out in time. "Their lives were just not seen as worth saving," says Nayara.

"This is not ancient history," said Nayara. "The fire happened May 8 of this year."

Conditions in her *favela* are still very hard, Nayara confided. "I am one of only a few girls my age who isn't pregnant, on drugs or living on the street…I was very lucky—I became involved in the movement. I woke up to the political situation and became an activist."

It is not every day that a poor girl from the *favelas* can participate in an international meeting, Nayara remarked, "I'm honored that my personal story can now become part of your experience…and that I can make sure the Declaration speaks about people like me and my friend Mikhayl."

* * *

"WE want a world where democracy means equal participation of women, and the full involvement of young people, the excluded, migrants, the displaced and rural populations in decision-making at all levels; where women can exercise their human rights, and secure their equal partnership with men, in families and in society, for the benefit of all; and where all kinds of families, and people outside families, have the same respect and protection."

She stood in the spotlight, dressed in a red tribal outfit, and introduced herself as a young woman from the Masai tribe in Kenya. Pledged in marriage by her parents when she was just 5, she resisted undergoing genital mutilation when she reached puberty because "once I underwent the procedure, it meant it was time for me to get married."

But she was fiercely determined to get an education and was dreaming of going on to high school. "I knew that an unmarried girl who had reached puberty and had still not undergone female genital mutilation brought shame to her parents, so I negotiated with my father. I told him that I would agree to go through the cutting and, in exchange, he would allow me to go to high school."

Upon graduation, though, she dared dream a bigger dream: college, and not in Kenya but abroad. "I had to negotiate with the entire village because for them it was a scandal to send an unmarried young woman so far from home." But after she stood before the village assembly and explained to them why she wanted to pursue this dream, the villagers not only gave their permission for her to leave, they raised the money so she could study in a small college in the United States.

With her degree in political science in hand, she returned to her village, and now, she says, "all the village women want their daughters to go to school." As for herself, she is working on a campaign to bring an end to female genital mutilation. She is now a walking, talking and truly admirable source of inspiration who tells all young women that there is not just life, but meaningful life, after FGM.

Dealing with state failure

PUBLIC LIVES

Randy David

NEXT to banks, telecommunication companies, and shopping malls, the most profitable business in the country today is the private security agency. No other country in the world, except maybe unstable Iraq, hires so many private security personnel.

"Blue guards," as we call them, are everywhere, providing countless homes and neighborhoods, firms and offices that singular service that is supposedly the state's primordial function—personal security. Their number is twice the size of the country's standing army and police. Their existence and the rising demand for their services, are the clearest proof of a failed state.

The privatization of security—alongside the privatization of basic education and basic health services, in a society sharply divided by extremes in wealth and poverty—poses the question: What for do we need a state? It is a question that has acquired even more saliency in the context of the government's worsening fiscal and debt situation.

Should the public, which theoretically owns the state, do something to save it from its present woes? Should citizens dig into their private savings, offer their jewelry, or give up their incomes so that the state would be able to pay its debts? Or, feeling so alienated from the state and having no care for what happens to it, should it allow it to sink in its present problems and prepare the way for its reconstitution?

The answer depends on our individual and collective experience with the state. I think a lot of Filipinos today would be inclined to think that the present state has either betrayed or abandoned them. They see it not as the agent of their collective will, the protector of their interests or guarantor of their children's future, but merely the milking cow of a privileged few.

The poor think the state has not done enough to secure their basic needs and redress the basic inequalities of our society. The middle class and the rich think that, because of corruption and incompetence, the state is not doing enough to protect their homes and property. No matter how one looks at it, this state of affairs is not conducive to the discharge of the obligations of citizenship.

The informed among us may see the urgency for a collective approach to the nation's financial problems. But, aware that these problems will not go away unless they are attacked at their roots, they are also wary of trusting the present officials of the state to do the right thing. This is ironic because we have just been through a national election.

It is not to say we are not already paying for the state's incompetence and corruption in the form of a devalued currency and scant public services. But no thoughtful citizen, not even one who loves the country deeply, would offer to pay the government's debts without a corresponding resolve on the state's part to address the main sources of the problem. The first is the government's failure to collect the right taxes from those who must pay taxes. The second is the mindless absorption by government of obligations incurred by unaccountable government financial institutions and public corporations. Almost 40 percent of the national government debt today, says the UP School of Economics report, consists of these assumed liabilities and loans of state corporations.

When we consider how these liabilities were incurred, who profited from them, and which interest groups evaded payment of the appropriate taxes, it is not easy to summon love of country. When we see government officials speeding through the city traffic in their large tinted vehicles with blaring sirens and motorcycle escorts, or when we learn that the President has brought almost her entire clan on her state visit to China, we start to wonder if state officials are there to serve or to be served.

State formation is an experimental process, says John Dewey. There is no sure-fire formula for creating a good state. "The only statement which can be made is a purely formal one: the state is the organization of the public effected through officials for the protection of the interests shared by its members. But what the public may be, what the officials are, how adequately they perform their function, these are things we have to go to history to discover." In theory, we know what a good state is, Dewey says. We know it by the degree to which the public is organized, and by the extent to which public officials "are so constituted as to perform their function of caring for public interests."

When we speak of the deficiencies of governance, we refer to the flaws in our institutions and the shortcomings of public officials. But that is only half the picture. The other half is us, the public—to the extent we can imagine ourselves as a collectivity capable of deliberate and conscious action. If we are organized, we should be able to invent and reinvent the state in accordance with the demands of our time, guided by the tools of knowledge available to us.

It may be inspiring to see the public move as one, *bayanihan-style*, to patch up those problems that are not being attended to by the state. But the value of an organized public does not lie in an auxiliary function like this, but in its capacity to reform the state and hold it accountable for its performance. A fragmented public will find itself saddled by an incompetent or irresponsible state. But a unified and intelligent public will know how to deal with a wayward state—it will tame its excesses and reorient its policies. It will not blindly come to its rescue in a moment of fear or sentimentality, or offer to bankroll its vices.

* * *

Comments to davidinquirer@yahoo.com

Thaksin's tipping point

EYE ON ASIA

Karim Raslan

THAI Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra seems to be at the height of his powers. With a general election slated for early 2005, the ebullient premier has been asking the Thai public to give him an overwhelming mandate of at least 400 Thai Rak Thai (or TRT) members of parliament out of a 500-strong House of Representatives.

Economic news has been generally positive. With GDP growth of at least 6.5 percent, low unemployment and manageable interest rates, Thai voters are feeling confident and comfortable.

The capital, Bangkok, hums with activity. Construction has restarted after nearly six years of inactivity, with new shopping malls emerging day by day in the heart of the city's Pathumwan shopping district. Its traffic-clogged streets, hypermarkets and condominium blocks reinforce the impression of an economy powering along.

The troubles in the predominantly Muslim South have barely dented the consciousness of Bangkok's commercially-minded population. Tavorn Saniem, an MP from the southern city of Songkhla and the chair of the Parliament's Justice and Human Rights Committee explains: "We don't expect the trouble to spread to the capital."

Still, the premier's bravura may have reached its limits. On Aug. 29, Bangkok voters delivered what is widely seen as a protest vote against Thaksin and the TRT in an election to choose a new governor.

A professional, self-made corporate man called Apirak Kosayodhin from the Democrat party—currently the largest opposition force pitted against Thaksin—won the election by a landslide.

Thaksin's TRT, fearing a rout, had retreated from the gubernatorial contest entirely. Instead, the TRT reportedly gave its backing to Pavena Hongsakul, a charming if slightly baffling charity worker. She came in a distant second after Apirak, trailing by almost 300,000 votes to his 911,441.

"Thaksin knows he's becoming unpopular. He's lost the aura of invincibility. The people are much more wary of him," says Democrat party insider Buranaj Smutharaks, who argues that the premier's uncharacteristic hesitancy reflects his awareness of new, less positive undercurrents.

"The Bangkok polls could be the tipping point. You must remember that Bangkok dominates the country and he realizes that he can't afford a major loss of face, what with the national elections only six months away."

However, the Democrats, having suffered a debilitating series of high-level defections, are hardly in a position to capitalize on the growing sloppiness, arrogance and corruption allegations surrounding the premier's inner circle.

The present Democrat leader Banyat Bantadtan is a colorless man with limited popular appeal, unlike his younger thirtysomething deputy, the Oxbridge-educated Abhisit Vejjajiva. A Democrat victory in spite of these flaws is therefore significant.

"It could well be a harbinger for the future, undermining Thaksin's overall authority. As it is, he's already using a lot of money and influence to win support," Dr. Chalidaporn Songsamphan, a Thammasat University academic, had said ahead of the poll.

A more thorough examination of the Thai political economy reveals that Thaksin is facing far less rosy prospects. The recent spike in oil prices is beginning to shake Thailand's oil-importing economy. According to The Nation, one of the Thailand's newspapers, the kingdom's oil bill in June alone was 132 percent more than the previous year's.

The higher prices are expected to shave one and a half percent off the GDP growth figures. There will be pressure on interest rates which look set to rise. This in turn will choke off consumer spending and deflate the emerging property bubble.

Thaksin clearly recognizes the pressures on the economy and is trying to curb energy consumption with his customary heavy-handed manner. He has called on retail centers and petrol stations to close by 10 p.m. and midnight, respectively.

This unilateral decision has drawn howls from the retail sector and consumers, many of whom can only shop late at night after the city's traffic jams have subsided. Corruption allegations and conflicts of interest are so frequent that they rarely attract much public attention.

At the same time, the premier's increasingly authoritarian ways are drawing criticism. A recently released report from the National Human Rights Commission attacked Thaksin for condoning a program of extra-judicial killings that left 2,500 dead last year.

The report states baldly: "Thailand is regressing worryingly to a culture of authoritarianism, instead of progressing to a culture of human rights."

The premier is also beginning to irk his most ardent supporters. Populist politician and retired military man Chamlong Srimuang, a well-liked figure in the capital, has been open with his criticisms, singling out the TRT's drop in popularity and the premier's "changed" ways.

Given the volatile mood in Bangkok and the uncertain economic climate, Thaksin will try to put the gubernatorial contest behind him—and fast. He wants to build up momentum for the national polls and cannot afford to stumble.

Thaksin's great skill has been his ability to manage perception. As Don Pathan, a leading columnist at The Nation explains: "Thaksin remains a popular man amongst the masses. He has learnt the skill of providing the people with hope."

As long as the Thai people feel they are electing a "winner," he will continue to soar. However, as Buranaj rightly observes, his credibility and legitimacy are becoming brittle.

The failure to head off a Democrat victory by Apirak could be the beginning of the end for the strongman of Thailand as other challenges rise to the forefront.

* * *

Comments to kraslan@tm.net.my

THEY SAID

Old glory

"It (Western Police District) has witnessed its glory reach the zenith but somehow this faded through the years. Today, we commit to you that we shall regain the old glory of our police forces."

—*National Capital Region Police Office chief, Director Avelino Razon Jr.*

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TALK of the TOWN

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Editor **Juan V. Sarmiento Jr.**

UP 11 plan: Can it keep RP afloat? (2)

HEEDING the call of 11 economists from the University of the Philippines to act decisively to head off an economic collapse, President Macapagal-Arroyo acknowledged for the first time that the country was in the middle of a fiscal crisis.

To rein in the public sector deficit and debt, the President is pushing for the revenue and cost-saving measures proposed by the UP economists. These include cutting the pork barrel of legislators, imposing an additional tax of P2 per liter on petroleum products, pegging specific taxes on tobacco and alcohol to the inflation rate, reducing the internal revenue allotment to local governments, and downsizing the bureaucracy.

Other groups, however, claim that the measures the UP economists are offering are woefully inadequate because they ignore other factors that cause the fiscal crisis.

The Focus on the Global South, Freedom from Debt Coalition (FDC) and Fair Trade Alliance point out that the economists are silent on unilateral trade liberalization, smuggling, and debt relief.

The aggressive tariff reduction has cost the government since the mid-1990s more than P210 billion in customs revenue and led to the closure of many Philippine companies and the layoff of tens of thousands of workers.

Smuggling, too, has cost the government a lot—estimated at more than P175 billion yearly—while debt service will eat up 94 percent of government revenues next year.

Reversing the unilateral liberalization program, curbing smuggling and limiting debt payments are necessary to prevent economic collapse, according to the three groups.

The UP School of Economics report: Overdue, selective, not daring enough

By Walden Bello, Lidy Nacpil, and Ana Maria Nemenzo

What is one to say about the report titled "The Deepening Crisis: the Real Score on Deficits and the Public Debt" by 11 prominent faculty members of the University of the Philippines School of Economics (UPSE)?

We have great respect for the authors of the report, some of whom are friends of long standing. Nonetheless, we must register our disappointment.

First of all, it is a report that is not so much timely as overdue.

It is now over nine months since Isidro Camacho declared that the country was in fiscal crisis along with the submission of his resignation as finance secretary.

It is over six months since the Standard Chartered Bank of London warned that the country faced an Argentina-type scenario.

This is a report that should have come out before the election campaign. Then it could probably have acted as a brake on the administration's spending its way to victory in the May 10 elections—a fact underlined by the sharp P7.8-billion rise in government expenditure in April compared with the figure for April 2003.

Selective

But timing is not the only problem with this report. It is selective in its identification of causes of the fiscal crisis, and because of this, the solution it proposes is woefully inadequate.

In accounting for the fiscal crisis, the report identifies what it regards as the main causes on both the revenue side and the spending side. On the revenue side, a whole host of factors are identified. One key—if not the key-culprit is, however, missing: the unilateral trade liberalization program pursued by our neoliberal technocrats. Customs collections declined from 5.6 percent of gross domestic product (GDP) in the mid-1990s to 2.8 percent in 2002.

Indeed, shortly after he resigned, Camacho said: "The severe deterioration of fiscal performance from the mid-1990s could be attributed to aggressive tariff reduction." Had the government not implemented its tariff reduction program, the former finance secretary estimated that it could have earned more than enough in customs revenue to cover its P210-billion budget deficit in 2002.

The report implicitly congratulates the Ramos administration for its balanced budgets or budget surpluses of the mid-1990s. What it fails to point out is that the unilateral liberalization program initiated by Ramos' technocrats made it more difficult for succeeding administrations to balance the budget.

Why is such a major cause of significantly reduced revenue completely ignored by the UPSE report? Can it be that the reason lies in the ideological bias of some of the authors, who were uncritical supporters of the program of unilateral trade liberalization?

Public Sector Deficit and BIR and BoC Collections

Year	Deficit	BIR	BoC
1996	P-7.3 billion	P260.8 billion	P104.6 billion
1997	P18.7 B	P314.7 B	P94.8 B
1998	P82 B	P337.2 B	P76 B
1999	P96.2 B	P341.3 B	P86.5 B
2000	P148.9 B	P360.8 B	P95 B
2001	P169.3 B	P388.7 B	P96.2 B
2002	P218.7 B	P394.5 B	P96.3 B
2003	P234.85 B	P425.4 B	P106.1 B

SOURCE: DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE

PDI RESEARCH/ INQGRAPHIC: ERNIE SAMBO

Not daring enough

When it comes to accounting for the culprits on the expenditure side, the problem that hobbles the UP economists is not ideological bias but the absence of intellectual courage. Despite the spike in government spending during the election campaign, the report rightly claims that the national government spending has been reduced to a bare minimum, "with large chunks of the national budget preempted by salaries, maintenance and operating expenses, and the internal revenue allocation to local governments, leaving little room for infrastructure spending and other development needs."

Yet the report hesitates to directly point to the chief culprit: the growing public debt. Only indirectly does it acknowledge this, as when it admits that, "Net of interest payments, national government spending (i.e., primary spending) has, in fact, declined significantly since 1999, and is now at its lowest level in a decade."

The fact of the matter is that if there is anything that has prevented government from fiscal balance, it is the swelling public debt. The total public sector debt stood at P5.3 trillion as of September 2003.

Total public sector debt was estimated at 130 percent of GDP as of the end 2003. Interest payments now account for a third of the government budget, with some estimates putting the real figure at 46 percent at the end of 2003.

But why does the UPSE step so gingerly around the public debt issue? Could it be because so much of the public debt is owed to foreign creditors, and dealing seriously with it will mean having to confront these lenders? While official sources say that about half of the public debt is owed to foreign creditors, others claim that the actual figure comes closer to 80 percent since much of what passes for domestic debt is actually owed to resident foreigners or foreign credit relent by local banks.

Tax Effort (as percent of gross domestic product)

Year	National Government	Bureau of Internal Revenue
1997	17	13
1998	15.6	12.65
1999	14.5	11.47
2000	13.9	10.91
2001	13.3	10.58
2002	12.5	9.96
2003	12.5	9.91

SOURCE: DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE, BUREAU OF INTERNAL REVENUE

PDI RESEARCH

True, the paper early on nervously discusses the idea of defaulting with local lenders, which it rejects. But dealing with our foreign debtors? It is testimony to how full debt repayment according to the terms dictated by our creditors has become a sacred cow that the UPSE paper fails to even mention the possibility of managing it rationally.

Instead, our authors at times speak like apologists for the creditors, saying that interest rates have been "quite benign." This is a strange way of characterizing interest rates charged to struggling developing country governments like the Philippines, which have always been so much higher than those charged to developed countries and corporations.

Automatic appropriation

The truth of the matter is that the main item that has busted and will always bust any attempt at fiscal alleviation, much less balance, is the never ending and rising payments to foreign creditors. The truth of the matter is that unless we find a way to bring rational management to our foreign debt, which means devaluing it, we will have a woefully inadequate strategy of containing the deficit. We can agree—and we do with many of them, though not all—with the measures proposed by the UP economists, but they are simply icing to the cake of debt devaluation.

The economists of UP were not always this timid. During the first explosion of the debt crisis in 1983-86, in the famous white paper written by several of the same economists, the following statement appears: "The search for a recovery program that is consistent with a debt repayment schedule determined by our creditors is a futile one and should therefore be abandoned." The advice was not followed by President Corazon Aquino, who chose the "model debtor" strategy of fully complying with debt obligations to foreign creditors. Thus, repaying the debt on the terms demanded by the creditors became the national economic priority, with development taking a backseat.

This priority was institutionalized by Executive Order 292, which affirmed the "automatic appropriation" of the full amount to service the debt from the budget of the national government that was originally mandated by Marcos' Presidential Decree 1177.

Stagnation and decline

Making constantly rising debt payments a sacred cow legally not only made the national budget structurally prone to deficits. Government is usually the biggest and most important investor in developing countries like the Philippines. Owing to the prioritization of foreign debt repayment, government spending has been, over the last two decades, confined largely to financing salaries and other operating expenses. For the last 18 years, very little of the budget could be devoted to capital expenditures, thus practically eliminating government spending as an engine of development.

Along with the structural adjustment measures imposed under the guidance of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the strategy of making debt repayment the national priority, which has been followed by every administration since Marcos, has created a condition of structural stagnation—what Massachusetts Institute of Technology economist Rudiger Dornbusch describes as a low-level trap in which low investment, increased unemployment, reduced consumption, and low output interacted to create a vicious cycle of stagnation and decline. This is the source of what we have called in a recent book the permanent structural crisis of the Philippine economy.

Way out

There is no easy way out of the fiscal crisis. The measures proposed by the UP economists should be seen for what they are: measures that will help alleviate but will not fundamentally confront the problem.

On the revenue side, reversal of the unilateral liberalization program is essential. The government has already begun this with Executive Order 241, which raised the tariffs on many manufacturing products and Executive Order 264, which froze the liberalization programs for a number of agricultural and fishery products. The reversal of the program should, however, be accelerated and the government must resist determined efforts by neoliberal economists and technocrats to reinstitute it.

Of course, reversing unilateral liberalization will not only result in greater revenue. Equally if not more important, it will banish a program that, in the words of Isidro Camacho, "has killed so many local industries" because of "the uneven implementation of trade liberalization, which was to our disadvantage."

On the spending side, there is no getting around the fact that we will need to devalue the foreign debt. What this means is political courage of the highest kind, and that, unfortunately, is in short supply in the current administration. But we only have to look at Argentina's experience to realize that we have no choice but to grab the foreign debt bull by the horns.

The main reason for the collapse of the Argentine economy was the policy of being a good debtor even when it was clear that servicing the debt was dragging the economy over the cliff. When Argentina defaulted on its foreign debt in 2001, it was because it could no longer service it at the onerous terms imposed by the creditors. The period of crisis has now given way to a period of growth, with resources going into investment rather than debt service. Unburdened by debt repayments, Argentina grew by seven percent.

With an economy on the mend, the creditors are asking for full debt repayment. No way, says Argentine President Nestor Kirchner. The best offer, he has told bondholders, is 20 to 25 cents to each dollar owed them. Take it or leave it. And he has been able to get away with it, with even the IMF giving way and rewarding him instead with a $3.3 billion loan.

With creditors

To our creditors, many of whom have been paid many times over for the original sum lent us, we can say, loosen your terms to, say, 50 cents to the dollar now or you will get a bankruptcy that will drag you along with it. Better 50 cents to the dollar now, rather than 20 cents or nothing later. Of course, there are many variants to such a negotiating strategy, and they need not involve brinkmanship. But the point is that that we must be much, much tougher with our creditors than we have been so far.

Our friends from the UP School of Economics say we must all share in the sacrifice that will be needed to avoid economic collapse. We agree, but we must include our foreign creditors in that burden sharing.

Now, the political courage that will engage in that sort of negotiation is what we need in our leadership circles at this point. And what we need from UP and other economists is the intellectual courage to recommend and guide such a course of action. Without frontally confronting and following a strategy of devaluing the foreign debt, fiscal collapse and bankruptcy will not only be a strong possibility but a certainty.

(Walden Bello is professor of sociology and public administration at the University of the Philippines, Diliman, and executive director of the Bangkok-based Focus on the Global South; Lidy Nacpil is secretary general of the Freedom from Debt Coalition [FDC]; and Ana Maria Nemenzo is president of the FDC.)

Proposed tax measures may aggravate the industrial crisis

By Wigberto E. Tañada

The UP School of Economics (UPSE) paper has done the country some good. It has reawakened the nation about the gravity of the fiscal crisis, which, if left unresolved, may precipitate a full-blown politico-economic crisis similar to what we experienced in 1981-95 or what Argentina had to suffer in the early years of the millennium

However, to our mind, the UPSE paper could have done the country better if it did not remain silent on the major root causes of the fiscal crisis. For instance, it was quiet on the problem of smuggling, outright and technical, which is depriving the country of at least P175 billion annually or almost equal to the annual fiscal deficit. About half of these smuggling-related revenue losses are due to the gross undervalution of Philippine imports. For example, some Chinese shoes are valued as low as $0.10 to $0.50 a pair.

Import undervaluation means the government is unable to collect the correct import duties, averaging 5 to 6 percent last year, and the 10 percent value added tax (VAT). Import undervaluation also explains why United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and International Monetary Fund data show why official Philippine imports for 2003 totaled $37.5 billion, and yet our trade partners claim a total of $45.5 billion of goods being exported to the Philippines last year.

The UPSE paper was also silent on the unilateral tariff liberalization program, which has reduced Philippine tariffs to "nuisance" rates of 0 to 5 percent. The radical tariff liberalization program is the main reason for the reduction of the Bureau of Customs' collection from 4.8 percent of the gross domestic product in 1996 to 2.4 percent in 2002. As pointed out by Justice Florentino Feliciano, a former presiding official in the World Trade Organization (WTO) dispute settlement body, the unilateral tariff liberalization constituted "unilateral total disarmament," as the program put the country's domestic producers at a great disadvantage vis-à-vis high tariff countries such as China, Thailand, India and Vietnam as well as vis-à-vis developed countries such as Australia and the United States, which also make effective use of non-tariff barriers like health, environment, phyto-sanitary and other product standards as barriers to the entry of our exports.

The unilateral tariff liberalization and the high cost of doing business are two major reasons for the collapse of a big number of local industries and the decision of some multinational corporations to close down their Philippine manufacturing operations and to shift to importation and distribution business.

We, at the Fair Trade Alliance, believe that the fiscal crisis is rooted in the industrial crisis. One reason for the declining tax intake of the government is precisely the shrinking industrial sector, the most taxable among the different economic sectors (services, agriculture and overseas employment). As reflected in the National Statistics Office data, the formally registered enterprises have been going down since the mid-1990s. As a result, the number of employed enterprise workers went down from 6 million in 1999 to 5.7 million in 2003.

What has been expanding instead is the informal sector. But being informal and unregistered, enterprises in this sector do not pay taxes. And so are enterprises in the free trade zones, which are given fiscal incentives (and yet, are also beginning to leave in favor of China and Vietnam). And so are the smugglers and the tax evaders.

Now the UPSE paper, is being used by the government to push for new tax measures. We are afraid that the burden of resolving the fiscal crisis is being passed on to the country's honest and over-burdened producers and taxpayers through the graduated expansion of VAT and the imposition of taxes on power and telecommunications. At the same time, the fiscal crisis is in effect being used to freeze public spending on education, health and vital social and physical infrastructure programs. Both sets of measures will further erode the competitiveness of domestic industry and agriculture. In short, the proposed cures may seriously injure if not kill the taxable sector itself.

We humbly suggest that the government and the policy makers use the fiscal crisis as an opportunity to put our economic house in order and institute bold reforms, including the implementation of non-tax revenue measures. These should include the following:

- A no-nonsense drive against smuggling. Big-time smugglers and their cohorts in government should be hauled to prison.
- Intensification of the drive against tax evaders and the fast-tracking of the resolution of all big tax cases pending in courts.
- The upward re-calibration of tariffs for all industrial and agricultural goods based on the maximum WTO bindings of the Philippines, except for raw materials used by local industry, to level the trading field.

Finally, there should be an overhaul of the existing agro-industrial plan which has failed the nation. The failure of the government to pursue an alternative, independent and progressive agro-industrial policy, which is not debt-dependent and seeks the all-out development of the industrial and agricultural potentials of the economy, is at the root of the fiscal and industrial crisis. Unless we replace the neo-liberal dogma in economic planning and programming in favor of the all-out strengthening of Philippine industry and agriculture, the nation shall be in perpetual crisis—fiscal and otherwise.

(Wigberto E. Tañada is the lead convenor of the Fair Trade Alliance.)

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Exec says terror threat in RP still strong

BAGUIO CITY—Malacañang is addressing new information revealed on Thursday here about a terrorist surveillance operation in the Sto. Tomas relay station that had gone undetected except for a random report by a security guard.

This report reinforced a little-known government assessment that President Macapagal-Arroyo's decision to withdraw in advance the Philippine contingent from Iraq had not made the country any safer from Iraqi retaliation, "or any other regional threats," said Defense Undersecretary Abraham Purugganan.

This was the most straightforward conclusion yet from local terrorist experts, since Ms Arroyo endured heavy criticisms from the United States-led Coalition of the Willing for withdrawing Filipino troops to save abducted overseas worker Angelo de la Cruz in May this year.

Purugganan heads the Malacañang Task Force for the Security of Critical Infrastructures (TFS-CI), which is touring the country to brief local governments about a national antiterror defense plan.

He had conducted security workshops in the Ilocos and Cagayan regions, and in Davao before the Baguio leg.

Casing

George Demot, security officer of the John Hay Management Corp. (JHMC), divulged to Purugganan that a suspect in the 2000 Rizal Day bombing had toured the relay station atop Sto. Tomas here and had even taken video footage of the huge satellite disks there.

Demot, a former police officer stationed here, said the government recognized the name of a Jordanian whose name appeared on a security book along with three other foreigners who visited Sto. Tomas in May 2000.

Purugganan said the information needed to be confirmed, but he agreed that it increased the need for a clear-cut antiterrorism law or policy.

He said the government is making "adjustments" when asked by the INQUIRER if the country needs to draw up its own list of potential terror threats outside of the "common terrorist lists" provided by the US and Europe.

He admitted that the government has no basis to call any organization, whether foreign or domestic as terrorist, because no law defines it for the country.

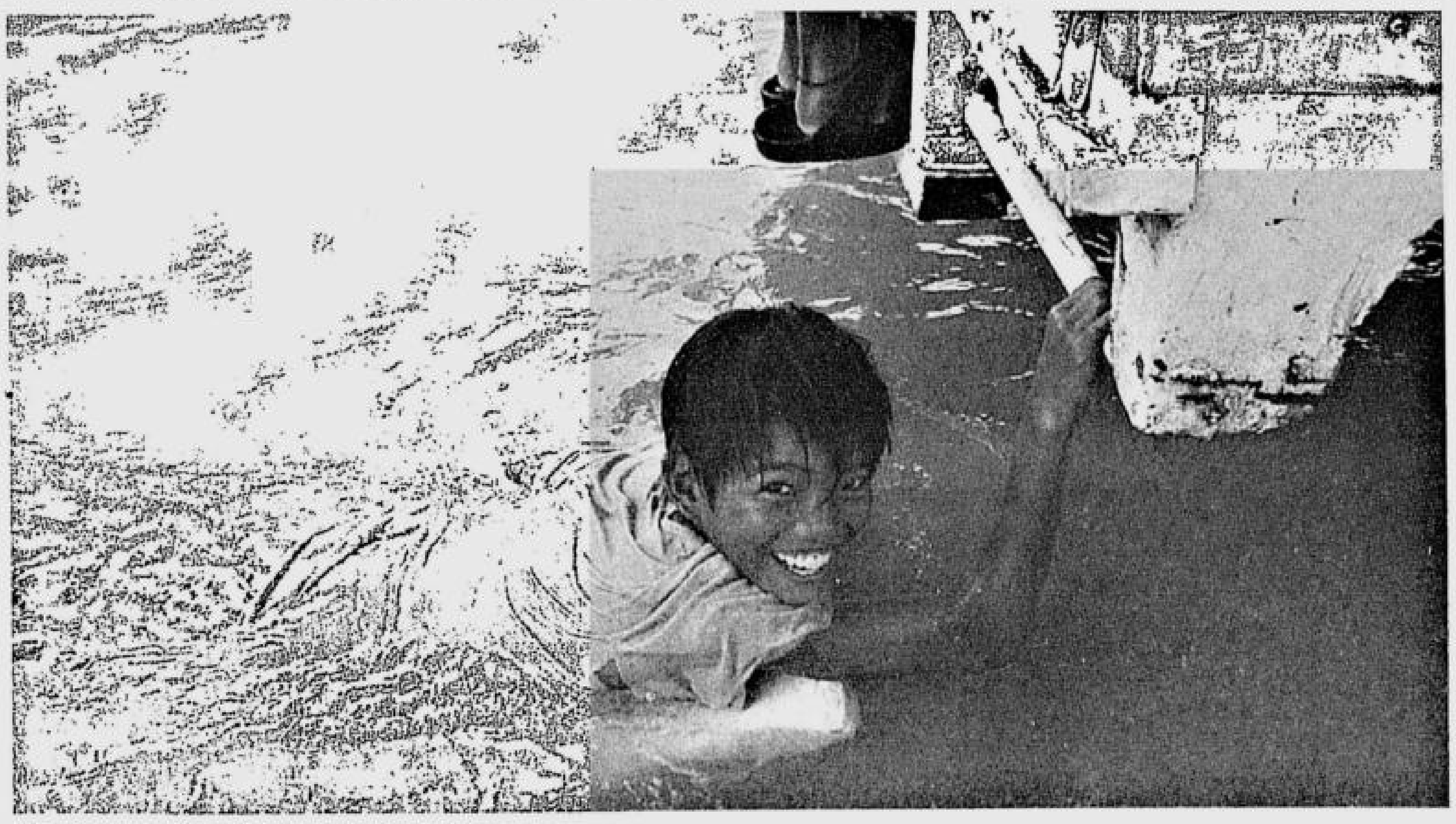
"The government cannot even call the New People's Army terrorist. The Armed Forces of the Philippines calls the NPA terrorist but not the Philippine government," Purugganan said.

He said the Filipino troops' pullout from Iraq has not weakened the government's resolve to fight international terrorism, particularly Islamic extremists from the Middle East like the al-Qaida.

He said there is no evidence pointing to a reduction of al-Qaida hostilities against the country because of its withdrawal.

But he agreed that the government has yet to consider the threats coming from Asia, such as extremists from Japan or China.

Security directors of tourism, telecommunications, power generation and local government properties presented their respective antiterror strategies to Purugganan. *Vincent Cabreza and Frank Cimatu, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*



HITCHHIKE
A boy swims in floodwaters clinging to the rear of a vehicle that was stuck in the flood in Hagonoy, Bulacan.
JOAN BONDOC/PDI PHOTO

Tough anti-smoking drive in Dumaguete launched

By Alex Pal
PDI Visayas Bureau

DUMAGUETE CITY—An aggressive campaign against smoking in Dumaguete is in the works.

Spearheaded by the Silliman University College of Nursing and Allied Health Services, the movement aims to make business owners disallow and their clients to stop smoking in all restaurants and hotel lobbies or even in the streets.

Dr. Ma. Teresita Sinda, dean of the SUCNAHS, said this campaign would be undertaken in collaboration with the World Health Organization.

Sinda appeared before the City Council session last Thursday to present her proposal for a tie-up with the city government for this ambitious project.

As partners in this project, Sinda proposed the city to share half of the P58,000 budget of this drive. The money will be spent mainly for the purchase of materials for the anti-smoking information campaign.

"More and more young people are picking up the smoking habit in Dumaguete," Sinda warned.

She said that the reason for the increase in the number of young smokers is that they are not scared by the government warnings printed on the cigarette packs and in cigarette advertisements.

Sinda suggested that the warnings against smoking should be printed in such a manner that it would make the smoker think twice about actually lighting a cigarette. She cited a sign in Canada that said "smoking can kill you."

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**** Rosan Cruz, Senior Manager, Benpres Group PR

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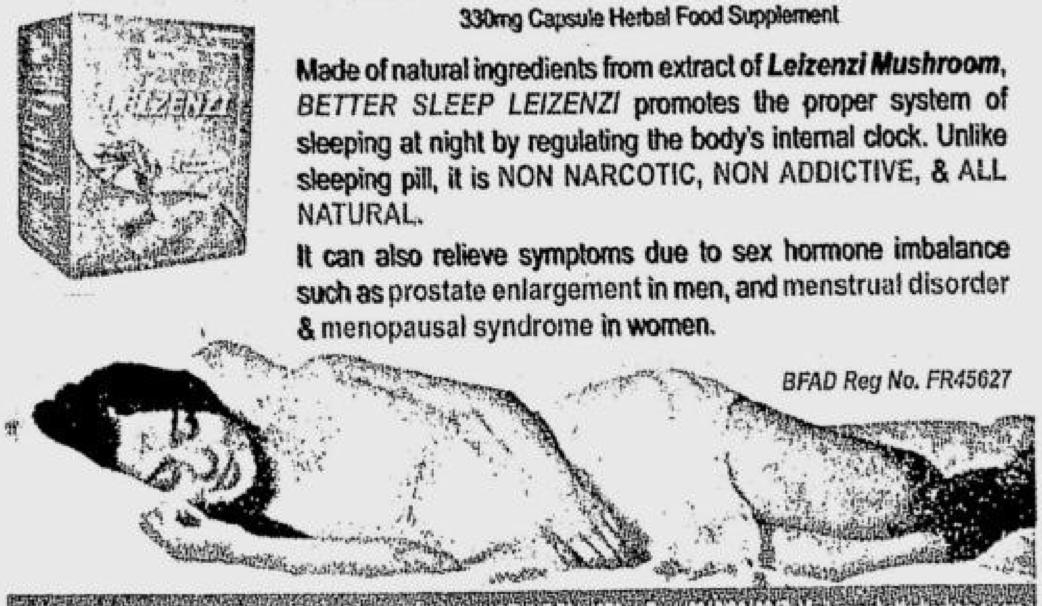

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Solon says now's right time to amend Charter

DAVAO CITY—House Majority Floorleader Prospero Nograles is turning the current fiscal crisis into an argument to change the Constitution.

Nograles said that the national government's proposal to freeze the local government's share in the Internal Revenue Allotment (IRA) only shows that so much dependence on the highly-centralized government in Manila can wreck havoc on the financial condition of towns and cities in the country.

"We raise funds in Davao City, transmit these funds to the national government but then, in the end, we have to beg for our share of such funds that had come from here in the first place," Nograles told a Mindanao-wide forum for independent Mindanao here.

He said the current fiscal crisis shows that there is pressing need to push for a change in the Constitution to end the national government's power to freeze or suspend the IRA of the local government units.

Keep what you earn

"In the end, it all depends upon the interest of Manila when to transmit these funds to us. Look at Bukidnon, for instance. Bukidnon shares P170 million of the IRA each year but (it) has to use its imagination on how to keep up its operation once the national government decides to withhold its IRA," Nograles said.

Under a federal form of government, he said federal states "keep what they earn and earn what they keep."

But Nograles admitted the proposal to shift to a federal form of government is headed for a tough situation.

Although 50 legislators from Mindanao are supportive of federalism, Nograles said he expects to have a hard time convincing members of the Senate, who will most likely resist the proposal.

One of the senators who had supported a shift to a federal form of government is Aquilino Pimentel. Former Sen. John Osmeña had also supported a federal form of government saying dependence on "imperial" Manila was not the solution to the country's economic woes.

"They (senators) said yes to federalism during the campaign period but after the elections they are now saying they will think about it," he said.

But Nograles said he will still vigorously push for it.

"I shall do everything to push for this federal form of government," he said. *Germelina Lacorte and Anthony Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

ROUNDUP

Drug pushers held

COTABATO CITY—Authorities have arrested eight suspected drug pushers, some of them alleged relatives of Vice President Noli de Castro's wife, during a raid here on Thursday. The Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (PDEA-ARMM) identified seven of the suspects as Bai Lily, 65; Binggo, 21, and Mohammad, all surnamed Sinsuat; Eloisa Arsenal, Michelle Sero, 18; Bernardo Yap, 26; and Bai Monette Limso, 20. The PDEA report said the raid was carried out after a month-long planning. The suspects are now being kept at the PDEA detention cell here. ***Rosa-May de Guzman, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

Help from consumers

VICTORIA, Laguna—The Department of Trade and Industry here, warned customers to pay only for the price that appears on tags and not what appears in bar codes or electronic counters, as provided for in the Consumer Act of the Philippines. Susan Palo, Laguna DTI director, in a press release said "it is the store's responsibility when it puts a wrong figure in the price tag. The customer should not bear the burden (of paying amounts) out of the mistakes of store owners." She asked customers to report to the DTI any store, mall, supermarket, etc. selling products without price tags and expiration dates.

Romulo Ponte, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

2 NPA rebs slain

LEGAZPI CITY—Two rebels died in an encounter between New People's Army members and the Masbate Police Mobile Group in Barangay Casabangan, Pio V. Corpuz, Masbate last Saturday. Brig. Gen. Ramon Santos, commanding officer of the Army' 901st Infantry Brigade based in Barangay Villahermosa, Daraga, Albay, said no one was killed on the government side.

Joyce Mejillano, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Alert vs fake coco wine

VICTORIA, Laguna—The Department of Trade and Industry Laguna office here has warned the public against fake "lambanog" (coconut wine), which it said might be fatal to one's health. Susan Palo, DTI-Laguna director, made the warning after the department received several complaints alleging that some unscrupulous traders had labeled their wine products as *lambanog* even if these were not manufactured according to standards. To avoid problems, Palo urged the public to buy those only from manufacturers or sellers accredited by the DTI.

Romulo Ponte, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

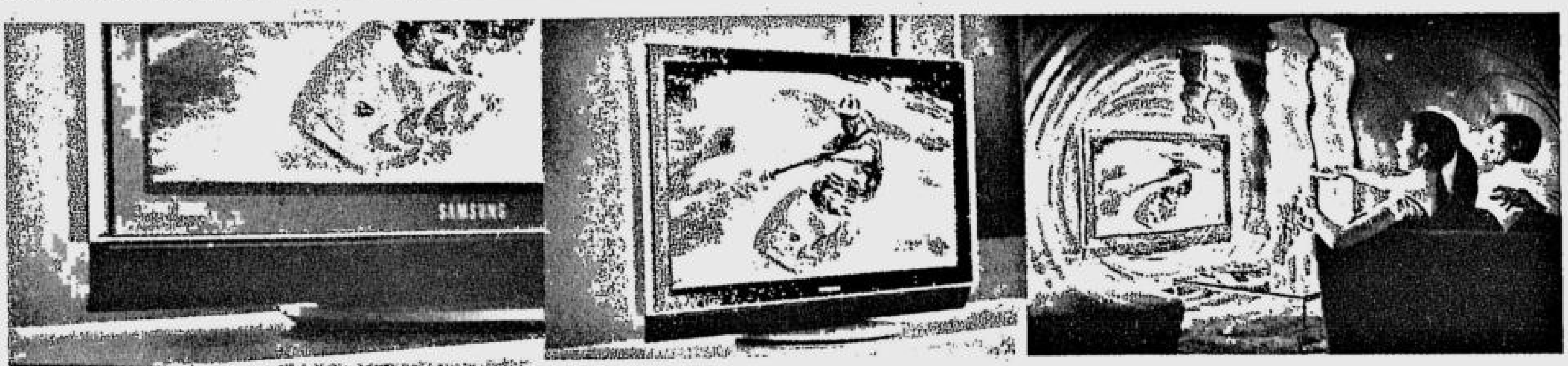
Belt tightening

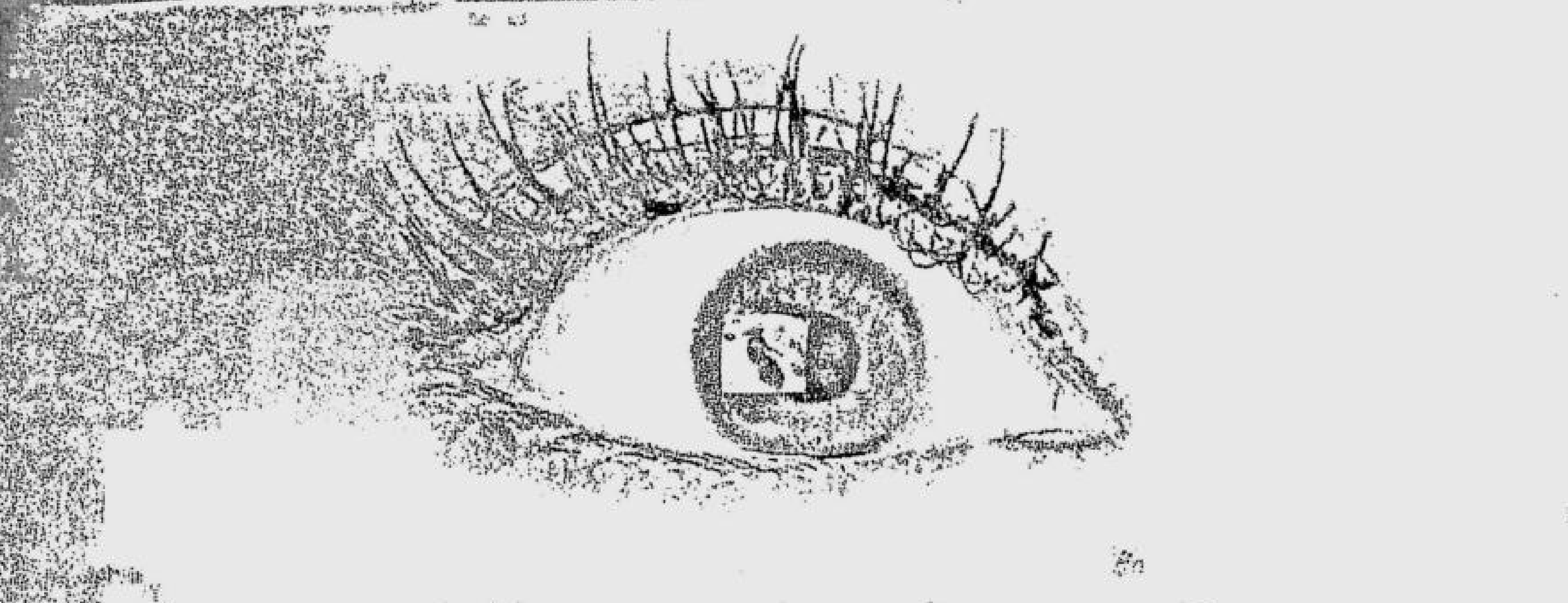
LUCENA CITY—The soldiers and officials of the Armed Forces Southern Luzon Unified Command based in Camp Nakar here have long been practicing belt-tightening measures, according to the camp's spokesman. "During command conferences, what we usually have for snacks are native 'merienda' items like banana cue and boiled camote. Fastfood stuffs like cheeseburger and spaghetti are alien to Solcom officials. For drinks, we have coffee but most of us prefer the native brew," Maj. Jose Broso, Solcom spokesperson, told the INQUIRER. He added: "Even our visitors are also being served with the same native snacks."

Cops assure media

CAMP VICENTE LIM, Laguna—Calabarzon police officials met with media groups here and assured those covering the region of assistance regarding the threats they face in line with their job. Chief Supt. Reynaldo Varilla, Philippine National Police Calabarzon director, and his staff met with members of the PRO4 Press Corps and Camp Vicente Lim Press Corps in his office to discuss how the police could be of help with the newsmen facing threats. Varilla noted an INQUIRER report that listed Southern Tagalog as the second most dangerous region for journalists in the country. He advised journalists here to immediately inform the police of death threats and other cases of intimidation. He directed the Regional Intelligence Office to work closely with journalists who had filed complaints before their office.

Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau





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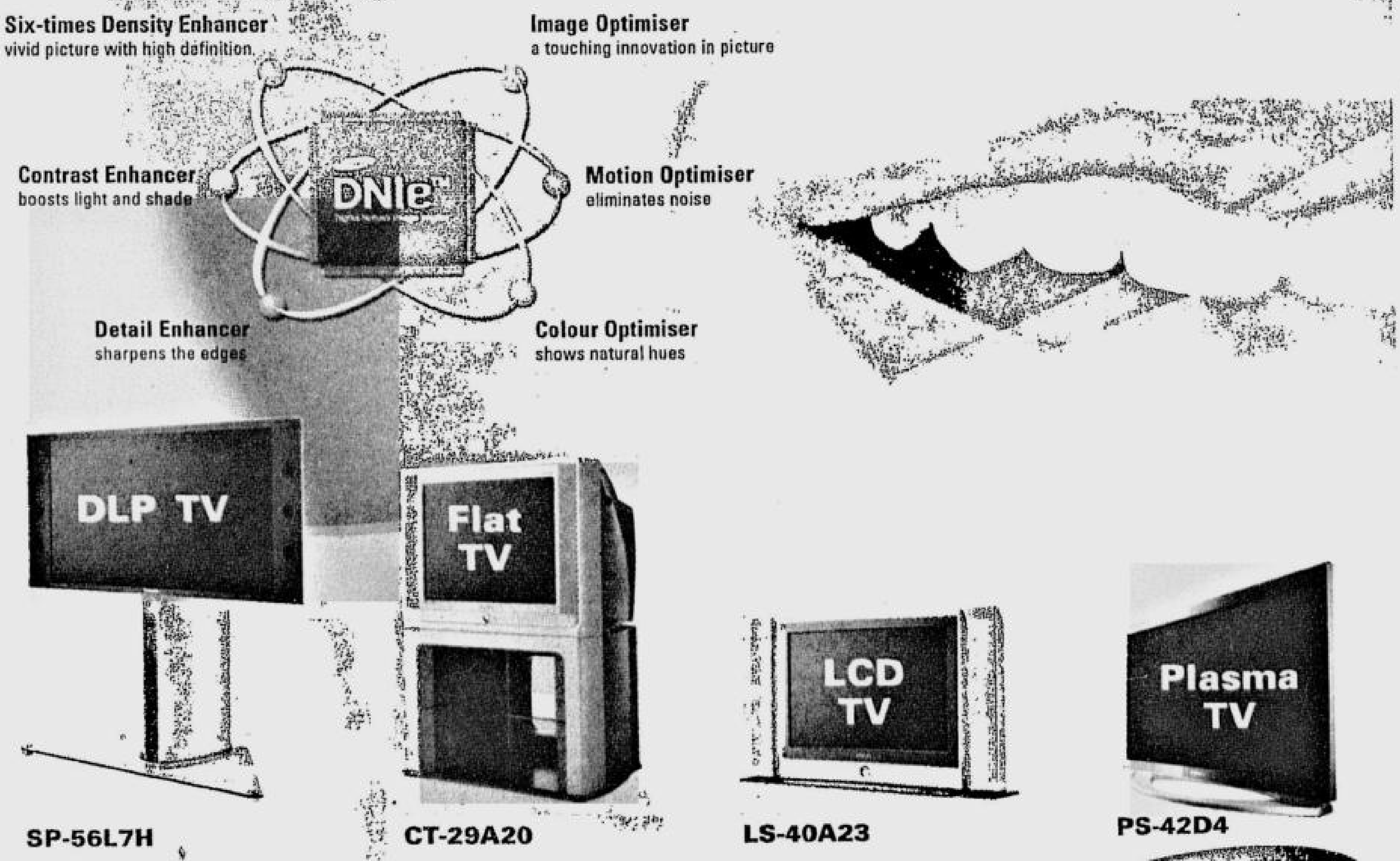

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SHOW OFF
AFP
There was no cause for concern when these gun-wielding men paraded in combat costumes and what appeared to be high-powered guns on Session Road during Baguio City's celebration of its founding day. They were members of the Philippine Soft Airgun Club and their weapons don't fire real bullets.

Former DENR chief vows to pursue fight vs polluting dumps

LOS BAÑOS, Laguna—She may have "lost" her power but definitely not her fighting mood.

Former Environment Secretary Elizea "Bebet" Gozun yesterday vowed to file cases against local executives who still fail to comply with the Solid Waste Management Act as she led over 2,000 environmentalists, local government officials and students in celebrating the 1st Los Baños "Pista ng Kapaligiran" held here.

Gozun said she is closely working with lawyer Antonio Oposa Jr. of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines to start filing cases against heads of several towns who continue to use open dumps.

"We have actually sent letters to all the local government units calling their attention to fully implement the law. It's been three years (since the law was adopted) so there's no reason for them to ignore it," she told the INQUIRER.

The law on solid wastes, also known as RA 9003, enacted in 2001, gives municipalities until the end of this month to transform open dumps into controlled ones.

Gozun said since she took over the helm at the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, more than 150 dumps have been converted into controlled dumps.

More than 600 material recovery facilities, an alternative to dumps, were also established, she said.

Gozun said she would continue what she had started in her three-year stay at the DENR.

"Don't worry. As private Bebet, I would still be working with (environmentalists) to continue our campaign against illegal dump and run after those who violate environmental laws," she told the participants of the program held inside the former municipal open dump.

The once one-hectare dump, now aptly called the Los Baños Waste Recycling Facility, is now home to several composting facilities servicing vegetable plantations. *Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Retrenchment hovers over municipal employees

By Romy G. Amarado
PDI Visayas Bureau

DUMAGUETE CITY—Many municipal employees will be laid off as local government units in Negros Oriental instituted austerity measures to cushion the impact of the extreme financial constraints confronting the country.

In Sibulan, a town some 6 km north of here, at least 50 of the more than 100 workers kept in the payroll on a per project basis, also known as the "job order employees," would be gradually removed from the service beginning Wednesday.

The number of employees to be laid off could increase if necessary, according to town mayor Antonio Renacia.

Renacia said it pained him to see municipal employees becoming jobless but he could not retain them because the town could no longer pay for their salaries, especially with the plan of the national government to cut down the Internal Revenue Allotment (IRA) of LGUs.

Renacia said that with the fiscal crisis the country is experiencing, it would now be very difficult to get funding support from other government agencies, congressmen and senators for some projects.

"That's why the municipality will have to use its own meager resources for these projects that could have been used for personnel services, including salaries," he said.

In Bais City, about 40 km north of here, Mayor Hector Villanueva also raised the possibility of cutting down the number of contractual employees should the plan of some national officials to slash the IRA of LGUs materializes.

In fact, he said, job order employees of Bais City have to work on rotation since last month.

But Dumaguete City Mayor Agustin Perdices said laying off government employees would be the last recourse of his administration.

Right now, the mayor said, he implemented austerity measures. This included making sure that office supplies, and consumption of electricity, water and other expenditures are minimized.

At the capitol, Negros Oriental provincial administrator Marilou Kho said the provincial government is now very strict on the travel of provincial employees and officials outside Dumaguete.

Islam, Arabic to be taught in schools

COTABATO CITY—By 2005, the teachings of Islam and the Arabic language would already form part of the educational curriculum in public elementary schools, and gradually in all school levels within the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao and elsewhere in the country.

"Public schools (at present), do not include Arabic language and Islamic values, making the Muslims ignorant of their religion and the language of the Holy Koran. Private *Madaris* (Islamic schools) do not follow the Philippine educational curriculum, thereby, turning students into virtual foreigners in their own country," outgoing Education Secretary Edilberto de Jesus said in a DepEd order issued on Aug. 28.

President Macapagal-Arroyo has endorsed De Jesus' directive and would issue an executive order to this effect immediately after her state visit from China, a Malacañang official said.

The idea, according to ARMM DepEd administrator Leovigilda Cinches, stemmed from the "long sought dream and aspiration of Muslims" to include Islam and Arabic in the standard curriculum of public schools in the country, particularly in the ARMM.

Cinches, who was behind De Jesus' DepEd Order 51, said she considered the implementation of the new curriculum next school year as "more than a fulfillment."

Exit effort

The signing of the Tripoli (Peace) Agreement between the Philippine government and the Moro National Liberation Front in 1976 had seen the establishment of private-owned Islamic schools in Mindanao under close government supervision.

"But never has Islam and Arabic became part of public schools curriculum," Cinches said.

She said many education officials in the past "tried but failed" to make Islam and Arabic part of the curriculum.

Cinches viewed the inclusion as De Jesus' "exit endeavor."

Former Batanes Rep. Florencio Abad had replaced De Jesus.

"In the interest of national unity and the implementation of the 1996 Peace Agreement (with the MNLF), *Madrasah* education has become a vital component of the national educational system," De Jesus said in the order.

Cinches said the inclusion of Islamic teachings and the Arabic language in the curriculum had the approval of the Project Madrasah Education of the DepEd ARMM, Accrediting Association of Muslim Schools and Colleges Inc., and the Bangsamoro Development Agency.

These groups, according to Cinches, met in a seminar workshop here on Aug. 20-23, where they unanimously endorsed the inclusion of the Islamic curriculum after a thorough review.

The curriculum, which begins in the elementary level, would aim to establish smooth transfer of students from public to private *Madrasah* or vise versa, foster unity among students, promote Filipino national identity and preserve Muslims' cultural heritage.

Initially, its implementation will be confined to the ARMM provinces of Maguindanao, Lanao del Sur, Sulu, Tawi-Tawi, Basilan and the cities of Isabela and Marawi. *Charlie Señase, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Ifugao group reintroduces ancient tree technology

By Vincent Cabreza
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—Beset by Benguet farmers "invading" their ancient rice terraces, Ifugao environmentalists have decided to return the favor by introducing to them their ancient tree technology that has sustained the centuries-old relics.

Dressed in traditional Ifugao garb, Santos Bayucca, member of the Ifugao Global Forest City Movement, led on Friday a team of Ifugao and Japanese volunteers to Kennon Road where they planted rosewood tree saplings that used to dominate the watershed canopies of the Cordillera rice terraces.

Bayucca said Ifugao ecologists want to teach Benguet farmers the necessity of nurturing watersheds atop mountains that are converted into terraced farms.

The more obscure rice terraces of Tinoc town in Ifugao are slowly being turned into vegetable gardens by Benguet farmers, who entered the area when roads were opened linking the border towns of Ifugao and Benguet.

The land conversions have alarmed Benguet and Ifugao officials because of their ecological impact on Ifugao's mossy forests.

FILMMAKER Kidlat Tahimik takes part in a tree planting program of the Ifugao Global.
EV ESPIRITU/PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

Ancient technology

Benguet farmers have exploited abandoned or uneconomical rice terraces by using bulldozers or by undertaking *kaingin* (slash and burn clearings).

Baguio photographer and artist Tommy Hafalla, who has been documenting the sociology and anthropology of Igorot communities, said ancient Ifugao technology appeared to have harnessed the science of hydrogeology long before European engineers discovered its application for farming.

The centuries-old rice terraces of Hungduan thrive on a series of water-impounding and water absorbing layers of vegetation that is held together by the *pinugo* (Ifugao term for watershed), said Emilia Nauyac-Bayucca, a cultural researcher.

The vegetation absorbed runoff rainwater and pipes it naturally down a series of man-made dikes that feed into each terrace steps, she said.

Bayucca said Benguet farmers would benefit from this technology because they have been encountering difficulties sustaining the province's badly damaged soil.

The Department of Agriculture noted in a 2001 report that Benguet farmers have been migrating out of the decades-old farms because 50 years of heavy vegetable farming had worn down their lands' ecosystem.

Ifugao Global has been raising nurseries of rosewood, which is one of the indigenous trees identified by Ifugao oral history.

For Ifugao's dwindling industry of woodcarvers, rosewood is also the timber of choice, Bayucca said. "We all need rosewood but when I did a inventory of the tree, I could only find one in Sablan town (in Benguet), and three trees in Kiangan town (Ifugao). We import our rosewood from Nueva Vizcaya but we learned that those trees are disappearing from their mountains also," he said.

Ifugao Global founder Lopez Nauyac proposed to rebuild the *pinugo* (watersheds) of the Ifugao rice terraces in 2000, Bayucca said.

"Many of our neighbors could not understand at first why it was necessary. But eventually it was the children of our community (in Hungduan) who volunteered to plant trees in 2000," his wife said.

The Japanese have recognized Ifugao Global's efforts. The International Kudzu Green Sannan Reforestation Campaign Inc. (IKGS), which had undertaken a tree replenishing program in Zambales, went to the Hungduan terraces to help Nauyac, Bayucca said.

Volunteers

"We trained all nine barangays of Hungduan to nurture rosewood seedlings into saplings, and then we ask the schoolchildren to plan and protect the saplings along ancient terrace watersheds," he said.

Ifugao Global is also being financed by a P1-million grant from the former Japan International Cooperation Agency (Jica).

Bayucca said Hungduan is prepared to grow enough rosewood for the rest of Ifugao's terraces, but the rate of "farm invasion," which has despoiled interior town terraces such as Tinoc's, has convinced Ifugao Global to undertake a parallel program outside Ifugao.

Last Friday's tree planting project was Ifugao Global's first public foray as *pinugo* technology advocates, Bayucca said.

Baguio, he said, is a potential market for rosewood, which could help them refinance the nursery programs replenishing Ifugao's *pinugos*.

The project is tied with Baguio's new "green economics" program, which proposes to finance livelihood projects for barangays, said Vic Aquitania, city planning officer in charge of environmental projects.

Japanese teenagers Asuka Otake, Ikue Nashimoto, Chisoto Fukaseko, Maiko Nagesawa, and Hasegawa Midori clambered around the Kennon hillside with Bayucca's six-year-old son Isaiah "Mondatag" to plant the trees.

Filmmaker Kidlat Tahimik, who has migrated to Hungduan, and IKGS Philippine coordinator Kasuya Tomita also participated in the tree planting.

Greenpeace urges RP to shift to power from wind

By Carla P. Gomez
PDI Visayas Bureau

BACOLOD CITY—The Greenpeace International on Friday called on the Philippine government to adopt a bold renewable energy policy that aims to supply 12 percent of the country's energy needs with wind power by the year 2020.

"There are compelling arguments that make this target achievable, especially against a backdrop of rising energy demands and skyrocketing oil prices," said Chris Harris, campaign director of Greenpeace Southeast Asia.

In a tour this week, delegates from Greenpeace visited potential wind farm sites in Negros Occidental, whose rejection of polluting energy sources such as coal and its 100 percent renewable energy policy has earned it a reputation as the Asian model for community-based clean energy generation, he said.

"We are extremely pleased to see a real clean energy revolution being spurred by small communities in Negros. It is now time for the Philippine government to follow on the revolution started by the people of Negros and become bolder in its clean energy targets. The Philippines clearly stands to become a wind energy powerhouse if leaders have the will to do so," Harris said.

In Negros, positive indicators from tests being made in the coastal town of Pulupandan have already drawn the interest of investors. Another coastal area in Sojoton, Cauayan has been identified as a potential wind farm site and in a few months will undergo tests for wind speeds.

Greenpeace cited two important factors for wind energy to take off in the country. One is funding and support from large international financial institutions such as the Asian Development Bank. The other is an aggressive government program that provides significant incentives to investors in clean energy projects.

Earlier this year, the Philippine government announced its intention to make the country Asia's top producer of wind power.

"Once harnessed and supported by the right policy and financial incentives, the Philippines could easily leapfrog into the renewable age and avoid being locked in an obsolete fossil-fuel based energy path," said Athena Ronquillo-Ballesteros, energy campaigner of Greenpeace International.

INQUIRER*Mindanao*

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A radioman's journey to hell and back

'It is unfortunate to be listed as a casualty, but this is a sign I will have to live longer'

By Ryan D. Rosauro
Ozamiz City

CLUTCHING the newspaper, Noel Esin, 36, read an INQUIRER article containing the list of 80 journalists slain since 1986 that inadvertently included himself.

After reading the list, Esin turned to his teasing colleagues at radio station dxSY and said: "It may be unfortunate to be listed as a casualty, but this is a sign I will have to live longer."

Esin was listed as killed on Aug. 31, 2001, while he was still with Radyo Agong dxBC in Butuan City.

That was the day he was kidnapped by six armed men and held for two weeks in an unknown location, believed to be in Misamis Oriental.

At dawn that day, Esin boarded a passenger bus from Butuan bound for Cagayan de Oro. In Gingoog City, the bus was flagged down by armed men who climbed in as if to look for someone. To Esin's surprise, they grabbed him and forced him into a van. One man poked a gun at his back and nape, causing Esin to faint. When he regained consciousness, he was already blindfolded and hog-tied to a chair, his back against a wall.

Esin said that, to this day, he still has no idea where he was brought, except that he frequently heard the sounds of birds flying by and smelled copra being dried.

"There were only two demands from my captors: first, for me to give them my notes that they [believed contained] facts about the illegal drug web that I exposed over the radio; second, for me to stop my work," he said.

For two weeks, Esin had to sleep sitting down. Showing the scars on his feet, he narrated how his feet were at times soaked in hot water to pressure him to give in to his captors' demands.

The "glory day" came when he woke up one morning hearing gunshots from all directions. He recalled being whisked toward a vehicle that sped off. Still blindfolded and hog-tied, he was then thrown out of the vehicle. He rolled down a small hill.

When he was rescued a few hours later, he found himself in Talisayan town in Misamis Oriental.

Esin said he had received threats when he was assigned to Butuan in 2000. He remembered diving in a canal and hiding in a culvert in Cagayan de Oro to evade his attackers during an early-morning hike.

Prior to his kidnapping, Esin had been exposing the web of individuals and crime groups involved in smuggling and peddling illegal drugs in Butuan. He admitted having named a Chinese-Filipino and a few police officers as among those running the "crime web."

Ambush

A week before being kidnapped, Esin said he was ambushed as he was taking out a motorcycle. He had just come from an induction program of a village chapter of "Agong Diehards," a group founded and maintained by the station as a strategy to keep its listener base for rating purposes. His bodyguard was killed.

Those responsible presumably found out Esin survived. Days after the incident, the dxBC station was fired at.

Esin, who was carrying a sidearm with him when he was ambushed, now said a firearm is not the best protection against attackers.

"There should be no-nonsense law enforcement on the part of government," he said.

Holding the list of killed reporters, Esin asked: "Tell me, which among these murders have been solved?

"That's the irony of it all. These people help [the] government get rid of corruption and crime in their localities but did [the] government care when they were killed?" he asked.

On top of the generally low economic rewards vis-a-vis work pressures, Esin said protection is the top concern among journalists.

Esin started his broadcasting career with Nation Broadcasting Corporation's dxCL radio station in Cagayan de Oro in 1988, fresh from a two-year training in radio announcing.

In 1990, he transferred to dxIF Bombo Radyo, which he credits for "indoctrinating" him about the role news media must play in society.

He rose from being a field reporter to senior reporter handling a public affairs program of the station's "Bombohanay Afternoon Reports."

In 2000, he moved to Radio Mindanao Network's dxBC in Butuan City.

Drugs

Esin said he was dragged into the anti-illegal drugs cause in Butuan through the Agong Diehards, with whom he formed the movement Kapit-Bisig Tulong-tulong sa Kapwa.

Kapit-Bisig became a platform for expressing the people's sentiment against the illegal drug peddling which became a serious problem at that time.

"I was thinking the police brass would be behind us all the way, but we were wrong," Esin said.

"When I was released from captivity, I later learned [that] some high-ranking police officials were involved in my abduction."

Today, Esin said, he was more circumspect in conducting his broadcast duties, "seeing to it [that] the requisites for going all the way were secured."

"But with the state of our police, can that be achieved?" he wondered.

Immediately upon returning to work at dxBC after his two-week captivity, Esin said RMN removed him from his reportorial duties and let him focus on marketing and general management of the radio station.

On June 2003, he resigned and undertook small businesses in Cagayan de Oro while moonlighting with dxJR, a station owned by former Cagayan de Oro Rep. Erasmo Damasing.

"In a way, my abductors got one of their demands, that is, me backing out of my exposé with the ending of my broadcasting duties. That's not good, but should I insist? I have to support two children who are to enter college soon," Esin said.

In June this year, the dxSY management offered him a full-time broadcast job by serving as the station's news anchor.

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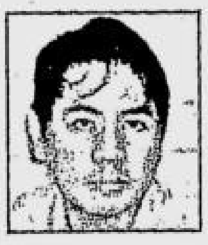

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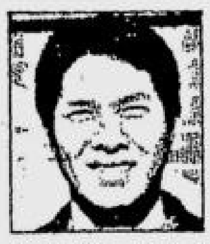

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(In exact order)

Drivers feel safer as lawmen become more visible

By Luige A. del Puerto

WORD is out that if you throw a pebble on the street, it would likely land on a policeman's head.

Although said in jest, the statement acknowledges the visible change in the affairs of policemen, who are now seen watching the streets of Metro Manila day and night.

Lawmen in uniform have been on street corners and major roads, with patrol cars nearby, ready to respond to any incident.

Among those who have taken notice are FX and jeepney drivers who say they feel safer with the renewed police visibility.

Just around the corner

"It's good to know that policemen are just around the corner, in case you need them," said FX driver Reneo Labbao.

FX taxi passengers have recently become preferred targets of armed robbers.

In Marikina City, policemen guard major intersections such as Gen. Ordoñez Street and Bayan-Bayanan Avenue, and places frequented by people such as the Riverbanks center and the main public market.

At least three patrol cars guard strategic areas along Marcos Highway, a key road linking Metro Manila to Rizal province.

Lawmen are also highly visible on Aurora Boulevard in Quezon City, which was recently cited by the police as having recorded the most number of crimes from January to July this year.

Wary of armed robbers that victimize FX and jeepney passengers, Central Police District lawmen hold vigil especially at night until early morning.

For how long?

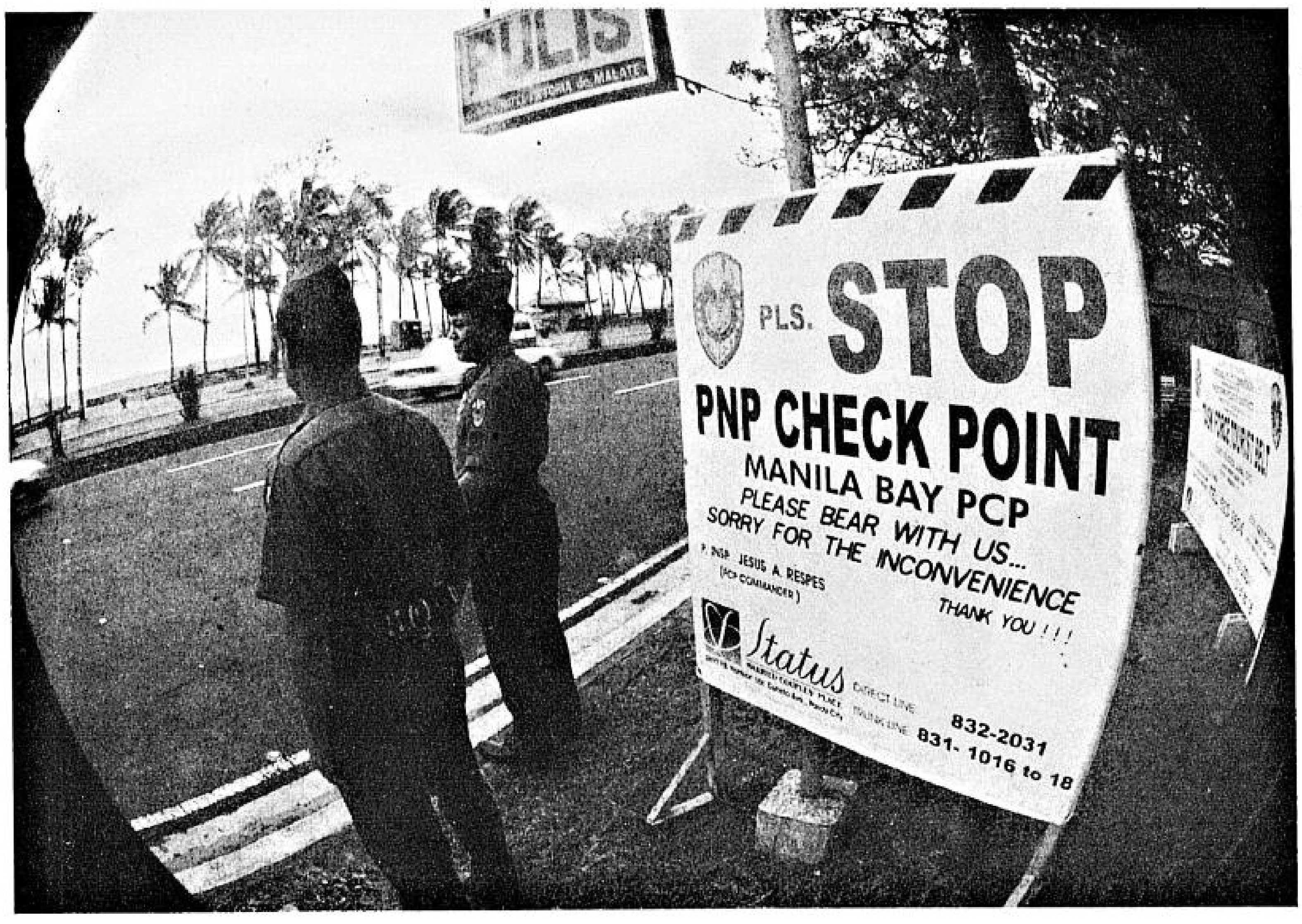
"If this continues, this is all good for us," said Glenn Orejeno, a taxi driver. "It would make robbers think twice."

However, Orejeno had his misgivings. "We know the new PNP chief is staying for only six months. Will this continue after that?" he asked.

Newly appointed PNP Deputy Director General Edgar Aglipay has ordered increased police patrols to ensure peace and order in the metropolis.

It is too early to determine whether the strategy has lessened the number of street crimes, officials said.

Last month, the National Capital Region Police Office said that crime statistics went down in Metro Manila this year from last year. The NCRPO attributed this to the high level of police visibility employed to stop kidnappings.



MEMBERS of the Western Police District man a checkpoint along Roxas Boulevard in Manila.

JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

METROBRIEFS

Good Samaritans

A LAWYER and two village officials have learned that trying to help an accident victim can have its own dangers. At about 11 p.m. Friday, lawyer Kenneth Radaza told police that he was driving under the Magallanes interchange when he saw a man lying unconscious on the street. He got down and tried to check on the man later identified as Rodolfo Tamayo, 40. Tamayo and three-year-old John Michael Puntanar were hit by a truck as they drove on a bicycle with a sidecar. Suddenly, the father of Puntanar, Marcelo, appeared and tried to stab the lawyer with an ice pick. Marcelo had thought that it was Radaza that hit his son. The father also tried to stab barangay tanods Joselito de Guzman and Roberto Ambrosio when they tried to intervene. No one was hurt in the attack. The boy was reported out of danger but Tamayo died the following day. *Nancy C. Carvajal*

Shot where it hurts

A MARINE who got into a fight shot his foe where it hurt the most—in the testicles. Danilo Ibot, of 380 8th St. GHQ, Zone 1, Signal Village, Taguig, surrendered to the police and turned over his gun, a .45-cal. pistol with six bullets. His foe Gilbert Briza was rushed to the Rizal Medical Center, where he was reportedly confined. *Nancy C. Carvajal*

Higher NBI fees

IF PLANS push through, applicants would have to dig deeper into their pockets to get a clearance from the National Bureau of Investigation. The NBI is studying the possibility of increasing the P115 fee for getting clearance from the bureau, said Director Reynaldo Wycoco. Wycoco said the funds would be needed mainly for the maintenance of NBI clearance section equipment. *Leila B. Salaverria*

Wayward warning

CHRISTIAN Donina, 18, was hit in the back by a stray bullet fired by PO1 Ramon Sangco, 34, who is assigned to the administrative department of Camp Crame. Sangco was running after Rolando Nicanor who had been engaged in a fistfight with a neighbor. When Nicanor resisted arrest and ran off, Sangco fired two warning shots. One of the bullets landed in the back of Donina, who was rushed to the Ospital ng Maynila. *Leila B. Salaverria*

Not Tierra Monte

THE DEVELOPER of Tierra Monte Subdivision in San Mateo yesterday said that it was not the place where a landslide occurred one week ago, killing five people. Tierra Monte corrected an item in the story "San Mateo's hilly paradise in peril?" which came out on page A-23 of the Sept. 4, 2004 issue of the INQUIRER. The INQUIRER has verified that the incident took place in the adjacent subdivision of Santa Barbara 2. Both Tierra Monte and Santa Barbara are in Barangay Silangan, San Mateo, Rizal.

TRIBUTE TO RM

A nook for young readers opens

By Tarra V. Quismundo

AS A TRIBUTE to the late President Ramon Magsaysay, a reading room was dedicated to the well-loved leader on his birth anniversary last Aug. 31 inside the eight-year-old children's library of the Museo Pambata in Manila.

"We would like the children to be aware of who President Magsaysay was and the values he nurtured during his childhood," said Lourdes Mercado-Balbin, Ramon Magsaysay Awards Foundation (RMAF) communications officer.

Esteemed guests

The reading room was launched with esteemed visitors as special guests—this year's Ramon Magsaysay Awardees Abdullah Abu Sayeed from Bangladesh, for Journalism, Literature and Creative Communication Arts; Laxminarayan Ramdas from India and Ibn Abdur Rehman from Pakistan, for Peace and International Understanding; Prayong Ronnarong of Thailand, for Community Leadership, and Benjamin Abadiano from the Philippines for Emergent Leadership.

The other Filipino awardee, Haydee Yorac, Chairperson of the Presidential Commission on Good Government (for Government Service), and Dr. Jiang Yanyong of China, for Public Service, were unable to make it to the occasion.

Getting acquainted

A nook where both children and adults can acquaint themselves with the life of the former president, the Ramon Magsaysay Reading Room welcomes visitors with a life-size photograph showing the late president leaping through a muddy ditch in a rice field.

The mini reading room offers a peek into how the "common *tao*" (common man) president spent the prime years of his life, cut short by a plane crash on March 17, 1957.

"The common man is fundamentally entitled to a roof over his head, a little [more] cloth on his back and a little more food in his stomach. And those who have less in life should have more in law," said former Agrarian Secretary Conrado Estrella, quoting the late president.

Photo exhibit

Estrella now heads the memorial foundation put up for the late president.

This "classic Magsaysay statement," as Estrella put it, comes alive in a photo exhibit inside the reading room, showing the late president kissing the hands of elders, mingling with school kids and visiting rural communities.

The photos are boxed in a comic book version of the Ramon Magsaysay life story, attractively framed in contrast to the black-and-white snapshots of the late president.

Well centerpiece

As a centerpiece, an old artesian well was placed in the middle of the room. The well was one of the 5,885 built under a nationwide irrigation project in Magsaysay's term, a priority project according to Estrella. It was donated by farmer Leonardo Pascua of Rosario, Pangasinan.

More than just photos and artifacts, the Ramon Magsaysay Reading Room also offers a modest book collection for young readers.

Jose Abueva's "Magsaysay's Political Biography" and Carlos Quirino's "Magsaysay" occupies a shelf with the works of National Artist Nick Joaquin and other books on great Filipinos.

"We want to impress on the young how studious the president was so he becomes an inspiration for children. But more importantly, we want to stress that even if one is just an ordinary student—which Magsaysay was—one can become a president someday," said Madonna del Mundo, Museo Pambata Executive Director.

Extension

Built through a P50,000 donation from the Ramon Magsaysay Memorial Foundation Inc., the reading room serves as an extension of the Museo Pambata's children's library that has around 5,000 donated books at present.

The Ramon Magsaysay Reading Room was one of two projects under the RMAF school partnership program, which aims to introduce the life and times of the late president to the young generation.

The other project is the Ramon Magsaysay Student Essay Competition. A compilation of winning essays in the past four years is one product of this undertaking.

"Young Pens For Young Minds," featuring 21 essays by youthful essayists on the on the lives of past Ramon Magsaysay Awardees, was also launched that day.

'Mother Nature'

Among the essays in the anthology is "Mother Nature," written by Korean Bomi Lee about her countryman Kim Im-Soon, 1989 Magsaysay awardee for community leadership.

"Kim Im-Soon is a revered figure who had been working for orphaned children after the Korean War, a population largely forgotten in Korea," said the 21-year old English Literature student from the Ewha Woman's University in Seoul, Korea.

As a prize, Lee got a free trip to the Philippines to meet this year's Magsaysay awardees and visit Magsaysay's native Zambales, where she was also introduced to members of an Aeta tribe.

"My trip here has been an exposure to greatness. I met people who are acknowledged experts in their respective fields from all over the world. I didn't even expect to win," said Lee, whose essay had become part of a birthday present to the beloved late president.

(Entry to the reading room is free, but others who prefer to walk through the Museong Pambata before dropping by the reading room would have to pay P60 to get in. The Museo is located along Roxas Boulevard, a short walk from the US Embassy and the Rizal Park.)

THE NEWLY opened reading room gives the young a chance to meet a well-loved president albeit between the pages of books. ERIK ARAZAS

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5 perish in Caloocan, Pasig fires

By Tina G. Santos and Luige A. del Puerto

FIVE people, including three children, were killed after they were trapped inside their houses in the cities of Caloocan and Pasig yesterday and Friday evening.

The victims in Caloocan, who were charred beyond recognition, were identified as Mayang Lao, 36, and her children Tomtom, 5, and Tonton, 7; and Janine Kho, 3, all of Interior A. de Jesus corner Edsa, Caloocan City.

Arson investigators said the victims were inside their rooms when the fire hit the two-story, 10-door apartment building owned by Benjamin Kho, 42.

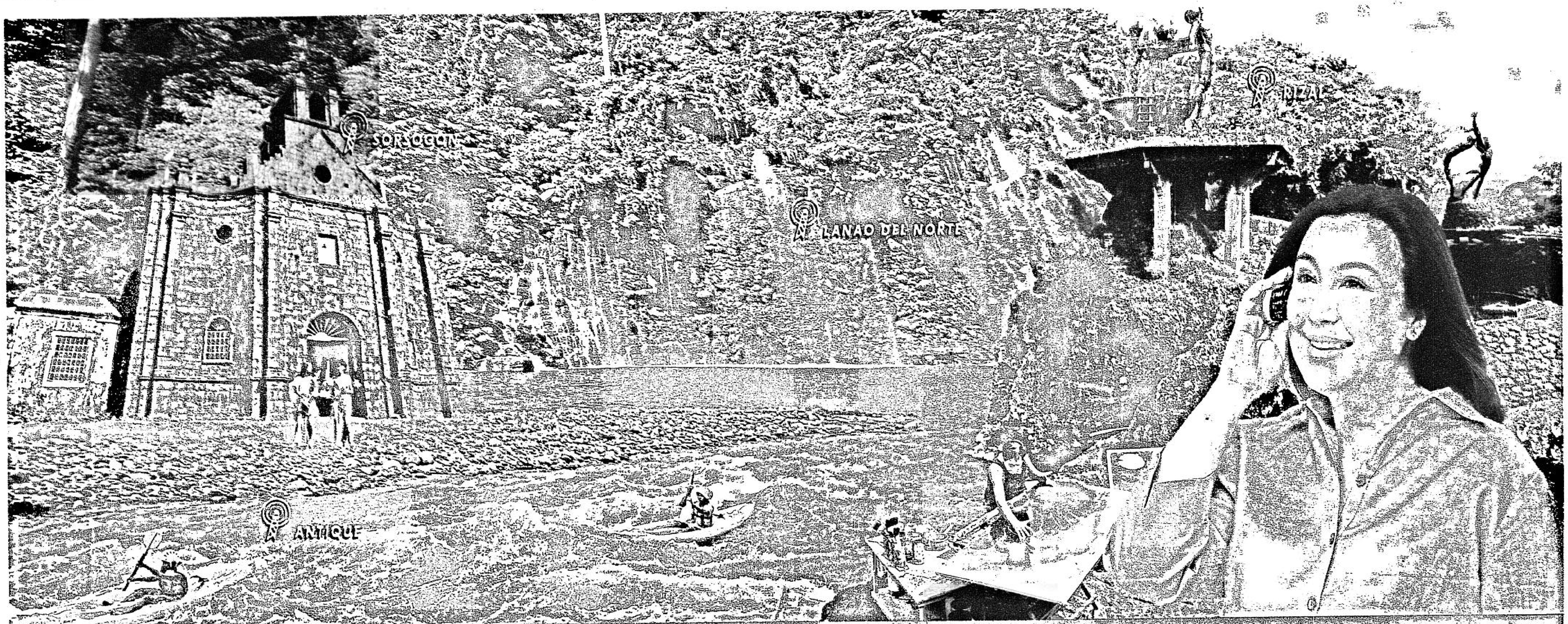
The fire, which lasted for an hour, started at 9 a.m. and originated from the unit occupied by Rosalie Jamilla, 27, mother of victim Kho.

Prior to the incident, Jamilla left her daughter sleeping inside their unit, reportedly to buy something from the nearby market, probers said.

Authorities estimated the damage to property at about P5 million.

At the Lusong Compound in Barangay Pinagbuhatan, Pasig City, relatives forgot about 31-year-old Rodolfo Ortiz when they fled a fire that hit their community at 7:25 p.m.

Ortiz was reportedly sleeping on the second floor of their house when the blaze, believed to have been sparked by a lighted candle, began.



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SPORTS TV

Compiled by L. Manguiat

TENNIS: 2004 US Open; 7 a.m. (r- 3 p.m.) and 11 p.m.; Star Sports—Catch the third and fourth rounds at Flushing Meadows, New York.

MOTOR SPORTS: 2004 F1 Belgian Grand Prix Highlights; 10 p.m.; Star Sports—Relive the best racing moments from Belgium.

GOLF: LPGA State Farm Classic; tomorrow at 3 a.m.; ESPN—Witness the final round live.

Schedules subject to change without prior notice.

Rosales fires 65, climbs to third

SPRINGFIELD, Illinois—Filipino Jennifer Rosales continued her upsurge in the LPGA State Farm Classic Friday, firing a 7-under-par 65 and climbing to third place after two rounds of play at the Rail Golf Course.

Propped up by her ace-spiked 68 opener, Rosales managed to gain on pacesetter Cristina Kim, who shot a 66, with an 11-under 133 total. Kim was 16-under at 128.

Going out with a 34 following birdies on holes 1,4 and 8 against a bogey on the par-3 No. 7, Rosales turned hot on the backside. She birdied holes 10, 12, 13, 15 and 16 for a 31 that moved her closer to Kim.

Cristie Kerr surged into contention, matching her career-best with a 9-under 63 to get to 12-under 132. After three birdies on the front side, she eagled the par-5 15th and added four birdies on the back nine.

Norway's Suzann Pettersen closed out her round by holing a bunker shot for a second straight 67 that left her fourth at 134.

Lorena Ochoa, coming off a victory at last week's Wachovia Classic, shot a 5-under 67 and was in a four-way tie at 9 under. Defending champion Candie Kung is in a three-way tie at 8 under.

Kim, a second-year tour player who has tied for sixth twice this year, is on a record pace. Her two-round total of 16 under is the lowest 36-hole score on the tour this year, bettering the 14 under posted by Jill McGill last week. The total easily topped the tournament's two-round record of 13 under, held by four players, including Kung.

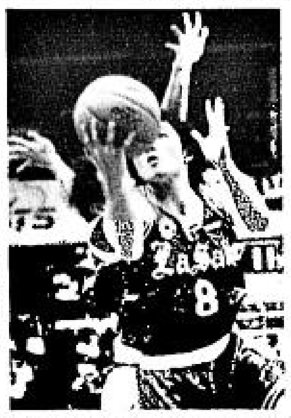
JENNIFER Rosales chips out of the sand bunker of the ninth fairway during the second round of the LPGA State Farm Classic. AP

Kim is also on pace to better the tournament record of 21 under, set by Kate Golden in 2001.

Kim believes she could have posted another 62 on Friday, but the warm weather that followed a 45-minute morning fog delay caused some distractions.

The 20-year-old Kim, who is looking for her first win on tour, held the lead at one other event. She shot a 65 in the Chick-fil-A Charity Championship, but a second-round 74 knocked her out of contention. She has missed the cut five times and finished 37th or worst in five other events in 2004. *AP*

WHAT'S INSIDE



- Archers shoot down Maroons /A26

- Angry Roddick, erratic Serena swamp foes /A24

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Zamora thwarts Ong, leads nat'l jr taekwondo finalists

RUSSELLE Jean Zamora beat Karen Ong of Bulacan in sudden death to lead two other Negros Taekwondo Union bets to the championship round in the junior division of the Samsung Best of the Best National Taekwondo Championships at the Glorietta Activity Center in Makati City, Friday.

Zamora and Ong fought to a 3-3 score in the first two rounds but the NTU Tiger outhit Ong in their playoff to forge a showdown with AIDA's Sheena Mae Perlas for the welterweight crown. Perlas outclassed Jenefer Tayag of Zamboanga, 5-2, in their semis duel.

Two other NTU Tigers advanced to the finals in women's play of the event sponsored by Samsung with Elmie Rose Baradas trouncing Kimberly Menchaves of San Beda, 2-1, to set up a clash with Jessica Joy Ballesteros for the featherweight title. Ballesteros, playing out of Cavite, drubbed Michelle Homores of Rizal High School, 4-1.

Meanwhile, hostilities in grade school division were being played at press time with the finals of both the juniors and 13-under categories to be played today starting at 10 a.m. A grand taekwondo demonstration will be held at 4 p.m., according to the organizing IMG.

Rubilyn Mapa, also of Negros, defeated Geraldine Agaton, also of Rizal HS, 4-2, to gain a crack at the lightweight gold. She faces Kathleen Kaye Roble of Cagayan de Oro, who routed Therese Banayo of Rizal HS, 3-0.

Others advancing to the finals of the 14-17-year-old class were Cristina Faye Ongpin of Clarkfield and Rotrice Ashlie Lavalan of UE, who will dispute the finweight crown; Cathy Jane Hampac of Zamboanga and Kristie Jane Manapsal of AIDA, who will clash for the flyweight title; Gernelyn Aranzanso of La Salle and Monica Dianelo of Clarkfield, who will fight it out for the bantam plum; and Jan Ross Pacquing and Kathleen Valenzuela of Bulacan, who will vie for the middleweight crown.

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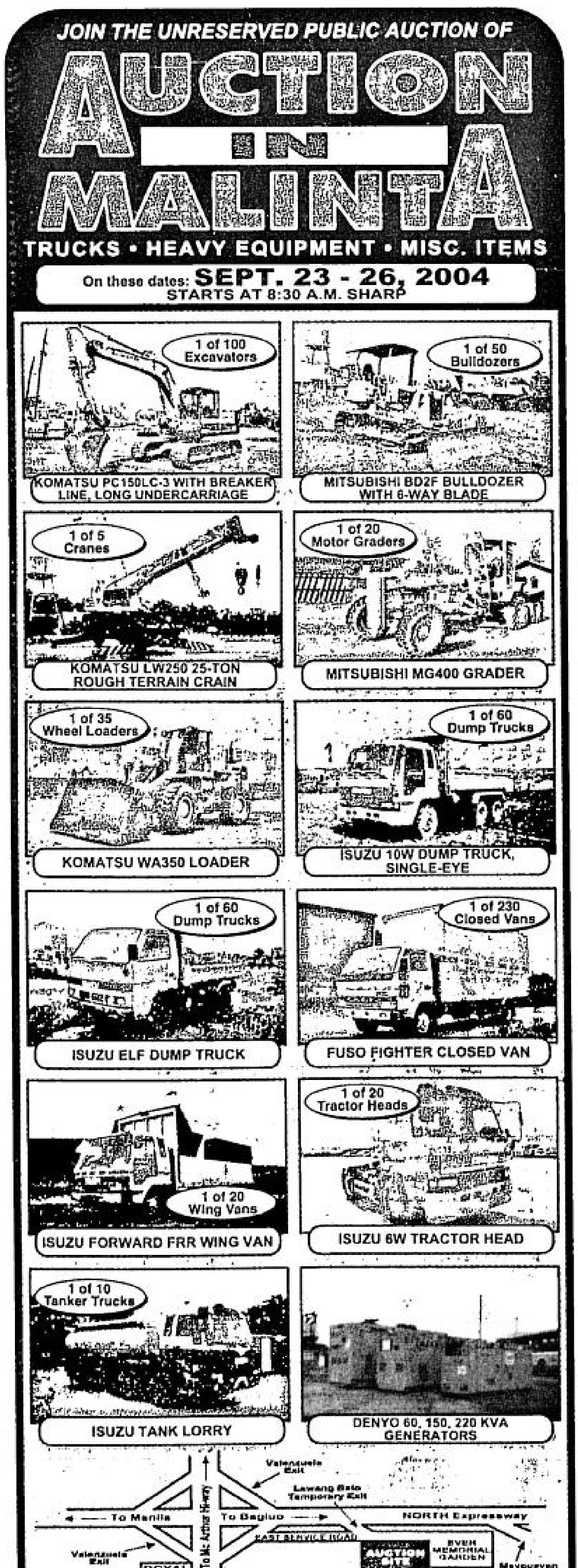
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15th Philtobo Championship slated Oct. 17

THE CREME de la creme of local horse racing are set to converge at the Sta. Ana Park on Oct. 17 as the Philippine Thoroughbred Owners and Breeders Organization (Philtobo) stages the 5th Philtobo Grand Championship Day, highlight event of the weeklong Philtobo Championship Racing Festival.

Six divisional championship races are set to be disputed for the annual Philtobo Grand Championship Day, bannered by the Mitra Cup 2YO Colts and 2YO Fillies Futurity Championships, the Philtobo 3YO Colts and 2YO Fillies Championships for Triple Crown trail veterans, the centerpiece Philtobo Classic for seasoned stakes campaigners, as well as the Philtobo Imported Race for foreign-bred gallopers.

Past winners of the Philtobo Championship Races include Wind Blown, Silver Story, Golden Ballet, High Octane and Empire King.

Staged yearly in honor of Philtobo's founding chair—the late Speaker Ramon "Monching" Mitra, the twin-bill Mitra Cup Futurity Championship Races for 2-year-olds are made exclusive for nominated graduates of the Philtobo Horse Shows—an annual racing bloodstock sale and expo for locally bred yearlings initiated by Philtobo in 1998 and an original brainchild of Speaker Mitra.

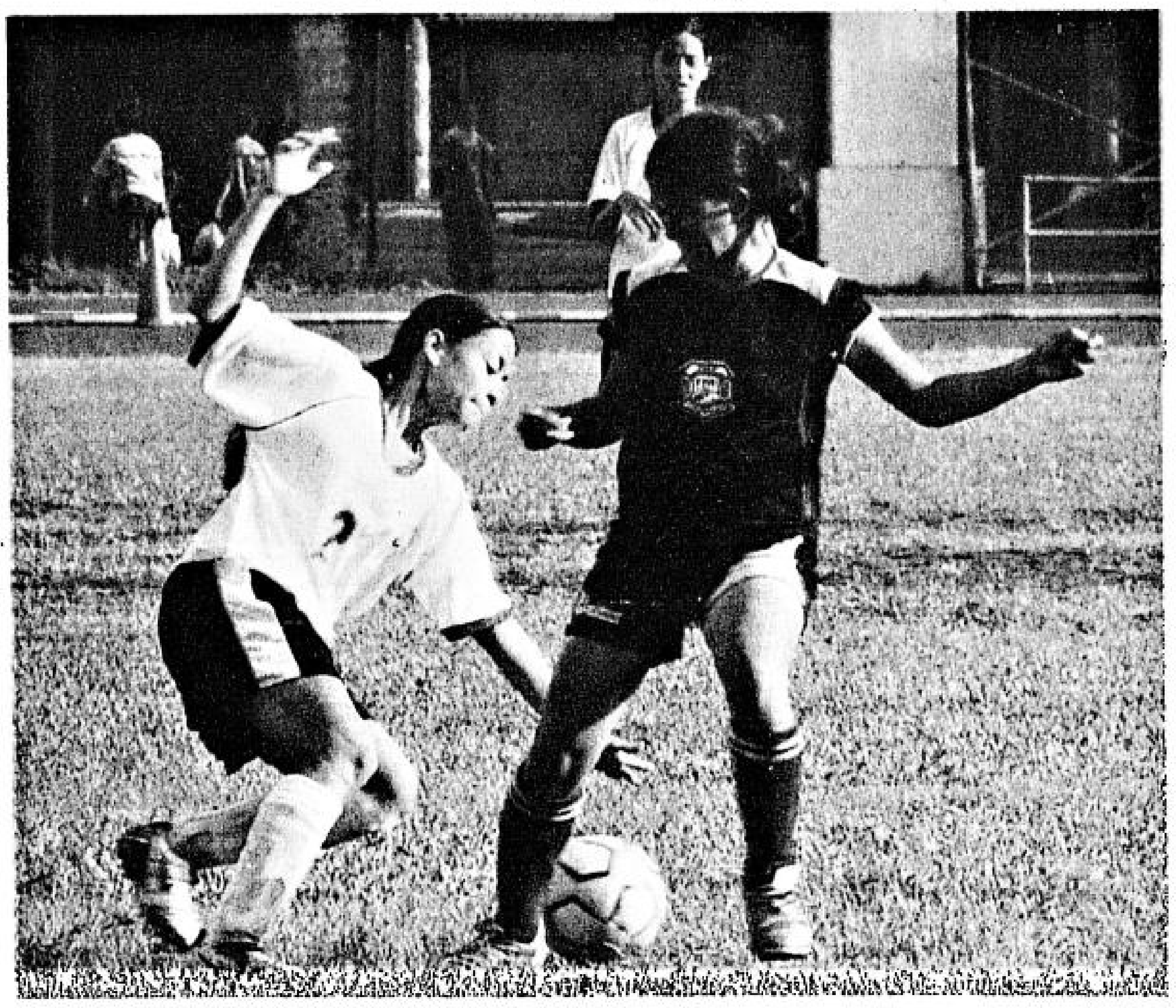
The 7th edition of the Philtobo Horse Show has been scheduled for Nov. 15 at the Santa Ana Park and will showcase more than a hundred select yearlings.

"We would like to invite all racing fans to support the staging of the 5th Philtobo Championship Racefest on Oct. 12 to 17, as well as the 7th Philtobo Horse Show on Nov. 15," said Philtobo president Bienvenido "Nonoy" Niles Jr.

RACING TIPS

AT SANTA ANA BY MR. 999

Race 1--1. Hello Africa 2. My Rabbonnie 3. Federal Court 4. Samahan
Race 2--1. Bukambibig 2. Princess Ann 3. Blitzkrieg 4. Native Talent
Race 3--1. Adam's Call 2. Diktador
Race 4--1. Interceptor 2. Wind Runner 3. Jajie 4. Be My Pride 5. King View
Race 5--1. Big Mama 2. Gold and Star 3. Headliner 4. Sham Sham
Race 6--1. Luck of the Irish 2. Joker 3. Aba Aba Aba 4. Manila Magic 5. Friendly Venture
Race 7--1. Ouzo 2. Dandansoy
Race 8--1. Field Star 2. Whistle Blower 3. That's My Tiger 4. Bronte
Race 9--1. Day and Night 2. Aya's Star 3. Money for Rap 4. Musikero 5. Galili
Race 10--1. Golden Cat 2. Impossible Dream 3. Miguel's Pet 4. Well Noted
race 11--1. Aya's Dream 2. The Fox 3. Bonjour Baby 4. Palm It Off
Race 12--1. Montezuma 2. Speed Admiral 3. Schwarzenegger 4. Mercurian 5. Perfect Time
Race 13–1. Impromptu 2. Real Charm 3. Guts 4. Diva/Parrot Moe 5. Coolmore 6. Suterian Era


PATTY Silva of NCR (left) tries to fake off Joana Sabid of Iloilo during yesterday's semifinals. RUDY ESPERAS

Davao, NCR XIs forge title clash

By Musong R. Castillo

POWERHOUSE Davao and an NCR side made up of girls playing in a women's tournament yesterday defeated separate foes to arrange a title clash for the 2004 PFF-SuperFerry National Football Championship.

Not even a muddied field caused by a heavy afternoon downpour at the Marikina Sports Center could slow down the two pre-tournament favorites as Davao tripped Dumaguete, 3-1, and NCR upended Iloilo, 4-2.

NCR, whose players are in their mid-teens, got two goals from striker Clarissa Lazaro as the team bounced back from 0-1 down to march into the championship match against the Davaoeñas.

Davao had an easier time, giving up only its second goal in the seven-day tournament co-organized by the PFF and the Marikina City Football Association and backed by Mayor Marides Fernando and the city government.

Composed of the nucleus of reigning UAAP champion La Salle, NCR goes into the 3 p.m. contest today as the underdog with Davao parading a roster that has six former national players.

"We will be going up against a very strong team," said NCR coach Hans Smit. "But my team worked hard to be in this situation, and Davao will have to play its hardest to beat us."

Dumaguete actually stayed in step with Davao, and keeper Darianne Rabaya even denied a penalty shot awarded the Davaoeñas in the 21st minute by referee Randolf Estrimos for an unsportsmanlike call on Louella Amamio.

The event, which is also being used by the Philippine Football Federation to discover potential talents for the National team for the SEA Games next year, is also supported by adidas, Red Ribbon, Petron, New Pagcor, Unicef and Aboitiz Express.

Rona Espinosa of Iloilo defied the NCR goalie in the 17th minute and it looked like the Negrenses were going to dictate the pace of the match until the Big City booters went to attack mode without letup.

NCR scored three straight goals in a six-minute span, with Lazaro hitting the mark in the 38th and 42nd minute that sandwiched an Elisa Benitez marker in the 40th.

Monica Santos won out in a mad scramble in the 50th minute, eventually rounding out scoring with a left-footed strike from close range that restored a two-goal lead for NCR after Sigred Pilla made it 2-3 in the 47th.

Fistorama on

"SAMSUNG'S Fistorama" features the championship match between Jerry Pahayhay and Jun Eraham for the RP flyweight division title today. The 12-round bout at 112 lbs was held at the Angono Municipal Gym in Angono, Rizal recently.

The popular boxing show is aired weekly in the United States, Europe, Australia, Japan, the Middle East and other parts of the world through ABS-CBN's Pinoy Central TV.

Samsung's Fistorama is aired at 2 p.m., Sundays on RPN-9.

BIG WIN FOR GUIDICELLI. Matteo Guidicelli of the Cebu Racing Group (center) topped the premier Open class recently in the fifth leg of the 2004 Shell-PCSO Superkarting Series at the Batangas Racing Circuit. From left are fourth-placer Indy Villalon of Birel-Fila, runner-up Michelle Bumgarner of M&M Racing, third-placer Allan Uy of Birel-Fila and Marlon Stockinger.

Tourney ushers in Golf Show

FOR the third straight year, the Golf Distributors Association of the Philippines (GDAP) will hold an invitational tournament to usher in its annual Philippine International Golf Show 2004 project.

The tournament is set on Sept. 27 at the plush Manila Golf Club course with the Golf Show, the annual trade exhibit for related businesses in the golf industry organized yearly by GDAP in coordination with exhibit manager Fairs & More, to be held on Oct. 8-10 at the SM MegaMall in Mandaluyong.

GDAP president Gerald Raymundo said the 18-hole tournament will also raise funds for the various projects of GDAP.

Invited to join are executives and guests of participating brands in the Golf Show like Callaway, adidas Taylor Made, Mizuno, Nike, Wilson and Besa's.

Randy Rana, tournament chair for the GDAP Invitational, said this year's event promises to be the biggest since its introduction two years ago.

Each hole, according to Rana, will have a different sponsor which is also a Show exhibitor and a special contest.

Part of the exhibit roster are newly developed golf resorts, travel packages and corporate giveaways. The Philippine Turfgrass Association will organize turf-related seminars during the event.

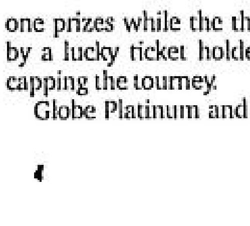
For details, visit the event website: www.philippineinternationalgolfshow.com or call FMI at 759-6680 or 845-1324 or email golfshow@fairsandmore.com.ph.

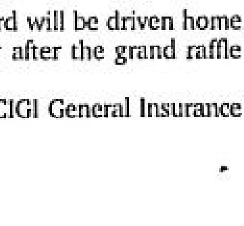
Eagle Ridge Invt'l set at Faldo, Norman courses

THE SECOND edition of the Eagle Ridge Invitational, the member-guest golf tournament of the country's biggest golf club in Gen. Trias, Cavite, will be held on Sept. 25-26 at its Faldo and Norman courses.

Supported by Nissan Commonwealth Inc. Globe Platinum and CIGI Insurance, the event is expected to be as fun-filled and exciting as the first edition.

Nissan Commonwealth will be giving away three of the best-selling Nissan X-Trails for the event. Two of the X-Trails worth more than a million pesos each will be at stake as hole-in-one prizes while the third will be driven home by a lucky ticket holder after the grand raffle capping the tourney.


EDWIN Celino

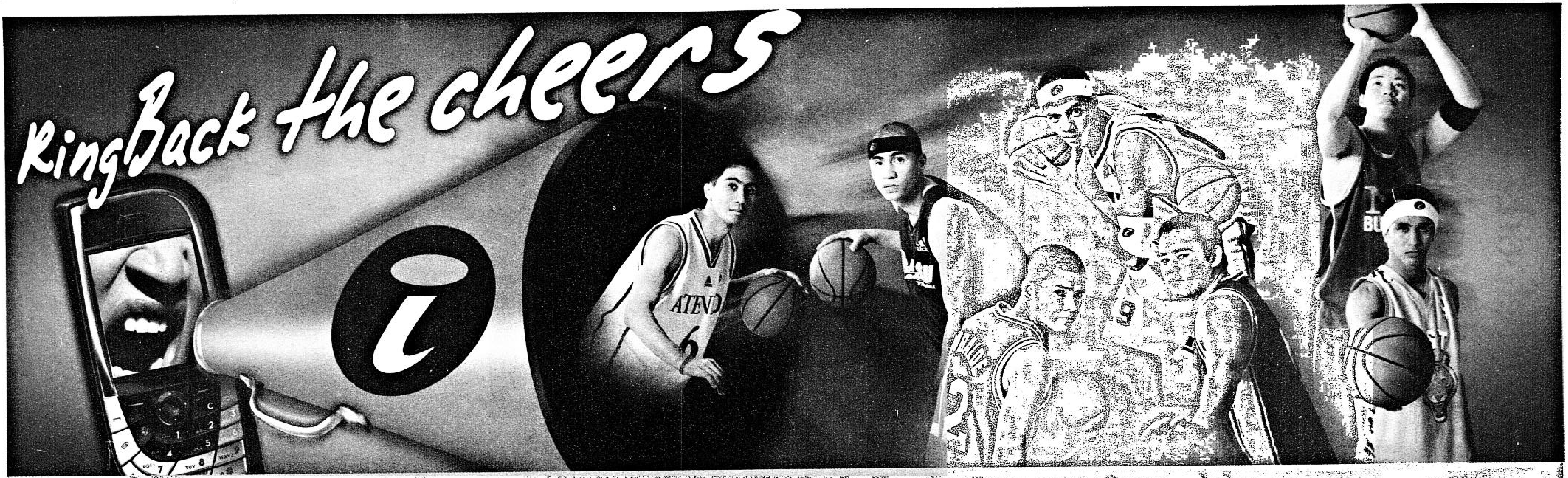

JAMES Balagtas

Globe Platinum and CIGI General Insurance Corp. are also boosting the prize package of the tourney to be participated in by no less than 200 member-guest teams at Eagle Ridge, which is a joint venture project of Alsons Land Corp. and Sta. Lucia Realty.

Through its president and CEO Edwin Celino, CIGI will award a P100,000 cash prize to the player who scores an ace on designated holes.

Petron and Samsung are also coming in as major backers.

Celino and James Balagtas, general manager of Eagle Ridge, signed the sponsorship agreement.



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RING IDS	RING NAME	ARTIST
100685	UAAP Blue Eagles	Tenorio, Fonacier, Bugia, Membrere, Intal
100690	UAAP Tamaraws	D. Miranda, R. Rizada, J. Chan
100691	UAAP Arwind Santos	Arwind Santos
100692	UAAP Larry Fonacier	Larry Fonacier
100701	DLSU	DLSU Pep Squad
100703	Go La Salle	DLSU Pep Squad
100705	La Salle Spelling	DLSU Pep Squad
100706	Ocho	DLSU Pep Squad
100707	Rektikano	DLSU Pep Squad
100708	UAAP Green Archers	Green Archers
100709	UAAP Mac Cardona	Mac Cardona
100710	UAAP Player Specialties	J. Yeo, P. Bugia, D. Miranda, K. Bono
100713	UAAP True King	J. Gaco, L. Fonacier, J. Vizcarra, J. Casio, M. Isip
100714	UAAP Tunay na Champion	D. Miranda, LA Tenorio, C. Luanzon, TY Tang
100715	Falcons Let's Go	Adamson Pep Squad
100716	Falcons	Adamson Pep Squad
100717	Falcons Go	Adamson Pep Squad
100718	Almighty Falcons	Adamson Pep Squad
100719	Let's Go Falcons	Adamson Pep Squad
100720	UAAP Falcons	Falcons
100724	Blue Eagle Spelling	Blue Babble Battalion
100725	Fabilioh	Blue Babble Battalion
100726	Halikinu	Blue Babble Battalion
100727	Rhumba Yell	Blue Babble Battalion
100728	Three Fights	Blue Babble Battalion
100961	Buma Kaya	NU Pep Squad
100962	Go Fight	NU Pep Squad

RING IDS	RING NAME	ARTIST
100963	Bulldogs Fight	NU Pep Squad
100964	National Spelling Yell	NU Pep Squad
100993	Let's Go Tamaraws	FEU Cheering Squad
100994	Clapping Yell	FEU Cheering Squad
100995	Here We Come	FEU Cheering Squad
100996	Let's Go Clap	FEU Cheering Squad
100997	FEU Forever	FEU Cheering Squad
100998	Green and Gold	FEU Cheering Squad
100999	Go Fight Tamaraws	FEU Cheering Squad
101142	Saligadu	UE Pep Squad
101143	Go Fight Red and White	UE Pep Squad
101144	UE Hooray!	UE Pep Squad
101145	Five-O	UE Pep Squad
101146	G1	UE Pep Squad
101147	Pamantasan Yell	UE Pep Squad
101148	Cage	UE Pep Squad
100693	Go USTe	UST Yellow Jackets
100694	Ocho	UST Yellow Jackets
100695	Slayer	UST Yellow Jackets
100696	GST	UST Yellow Jackets
100697	Viva Sto. Tomas	UST Yellow Jackets
100698	Nightmare	UST Yellow Jackets
100699	Black Gold - Black White	UST Yellow Jackets
100700	Tomasino	UST Yellow Jackets
100686	UAAP Growling Tigers	C. Luanzon, J. Vizcarra
100687	UAAP Christian Luanzon	Christian Luanzon

Rich Alvarez

102005
My Secret

102006
Almost missed that

102007
Standing Tall

102008
Big Hands, Big Heart

102009
Next Dead Ball

Wesley Gonzales

102000
One on One with Her

102001
Middle of a Game

102002
Ready to go Out

102003
A little "Assist"

102004
Tried Everything

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Shell trades Hrabak for Purefoods' Sotto, keen on acquiring Adducul

By June Navarro

SHELL continued to solidify its frontline by adding rookie Irvin Sotto into the Turbochargers' roster yesterday in a one-on-one swap that sent the streak-shooting Mike Hrabak to the Purefoods TJ Hotdogs, and is looking for new ways to pry Romel Adducul free from Ginebra.

Sotto, a 6-foot-7 inside operator out of St. Francis of Assisi College, will beef up the Turbochargers in the middle along with the 6-foot-6 Marlon Legaspi, who was earlier acquired from San Miguel Beer.

The Turbochargers again opened the door for a possible trade involving Romel Adducul of the Fiesta Conference champions Kings, a source told the INQUIRER.

Turned down on its initial offer, Shell will try to come out with a more palatable proposal just to snag the 6-foot-6 Adducul, the source added.

In the meantime, Legaspi and Sotto will take turns relieving resident center Billy Mamaril in manning the slot, the Turbochargers' most vulnerable spot since they won the 1999 PBA All-Filipino Cup through the exploits of Benjie Paras and Victor Pablo.

"I'm excited to play for Shell. I hope to develop my skills further under the tutelage of coach Leo (Austria)," said Sotto, selected seventh overall by the TJ Hotdogs in this year's rookie draft.

Sotto played for Austria at Welcoat Paints and Shark Energy Drink during his four-year stint in the Philippine Basketball League.

It was Austria, one of the most feared shooters during his prime in the PBA, who molded Sotto into a player complete with a variety of moves inside the paint and a deadly shooting touch from three-point range.

The Turbochargers have absorbed the remainder of Sotto's two-year contract with the TJ Hotdogs, whose bench got fortified with the acquisition of the veteran Hrabak.

Picked second overall by the Turbochargers in 2001, the 6-foot-7 Hrabak will further augment the TJ Hotdogs' array of shooters with his almost flawless outside shooting. Purefoods coach Ryan Gregorio could also utilize Hrabak to complement Jun Limpot and Kerby Raymundo in the shaded lane.

Hrabak, who is having a vacation in Hong Kong, has yet to be informed of the trade.

Gregorio was satisfied with the deal, even if it hasn't solved his need for a legitimate center just yet.

"Right now, with the difficulties we're having finding a center, we're just looking to surround that vacancy first before filling it," said the 2001 Governors Cup champion coach.

Hrabak, despite his size, plays the small forward position and is known more for his perimeter game than his post play.

"He will give us a lot of offense. Having watched him play for Shell, we felt that he will help us a lot in scoring," said Gregorio, who added that Hrabak's experience will also be a boost.

"He'll give us a lot of maturity. He's one of those guys who hasn't been in the league that long yet but already has a lot of experience."

SOTTO ERNIE U. SARMIE

SPORTSWATCH

BAP sets under-18 women's tryouts

THE BASKETBALL Association of the Philippines (BAP) will be holding tryouts for the composition of its Junior Women's National Team at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum starting on Sept. 6. Tryouts are scheduled from 7:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. Qualified to join are women basketball players aged 18 years old and below (born not earlier than 1986). Interested players may contact Neth Mendoza at 5242522. Players to be chosen in the tryouts will be included in the BAP's national pool, or may even land outright slots to the national team to be sent by the basketball association to the 17th Fiba Asia Championship for Junior Women on Oct. 15 to 21 in Shenzhen, China. Estrellita Enriquez will be the head coach. She will be assisted by Shellalyn Gabagat and former national player Raymond Celis.

Cuesta rules Pika Kids Karting

AYRTON Cuesta, a third grader from Lourdes School-Quezon City, topped the Cadet 60-TRS Pika Kids Karting finals last Sunday in the fifth leg of the Shell Superkarting Series at the Batangas Racing Circuit. Cuesta, named after the Brazilian F1 legend Ayrton Senna, finished the 9-lap race in 16 minutes 38.259 seconds, or just 0.1 second ahead of Ton Joson. TRS driver Rafael Benito came in third. The victory was the fourth in five outings for Cuesta, who is backed by QC Autosports, Basics, Microtel, Lolo Dad's Café and Quirino Water. A son of race car driver and engine tuner Dominic Cuesta of QC Autosports, Cuesta finished second to TRS driver Kahlil Demaisip in the opening heat held Saturday afternoon. Heeding the instructions of his father-coach, Cuesta stayed focused in the second heat and finished first to earn the pole position for the finals. Cuesta had his first taste of international competition in the 2004 Asian Karting Zone Championships.

Blue Eagles Halikinu Radio guests

ATENEO Blue Eagles Chris Tiu, Martin Quimson and Ford Arao, the Ateneo Law School Debate Team, and the Ateneo Cheerdancers are the special live studio guests on Halikinu Radio on NU 107.5 FM, 9 p.m. tomorrow. Halikinu Radio, which is hosted by PBA sportscaster Mico Halili, airs every Monday and is presented by Smart in cooperation with Avia. The weekly show is also supported by Close-up, Wolfpac Mobile, i-Pod, Palm One, Spoofs Limited, Power Station, 90 Proof and Intermatrix.

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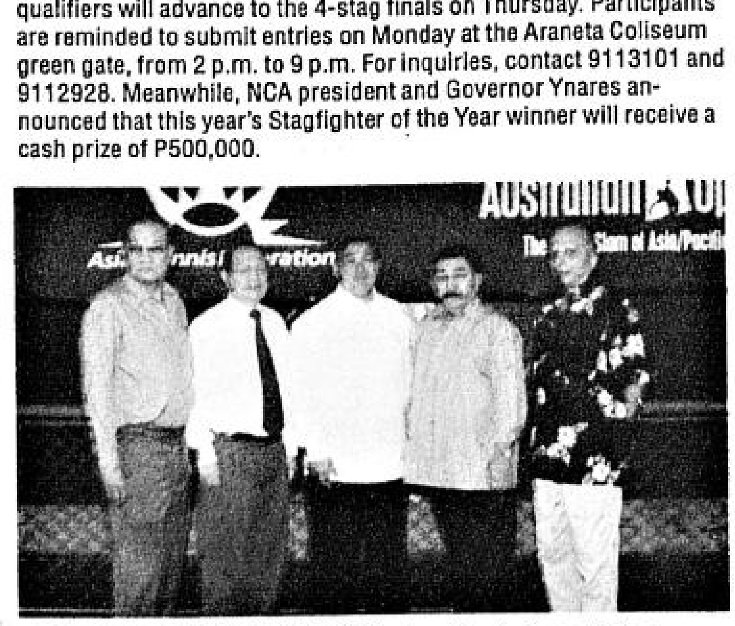
FOOTBALL SCHOLARS: John Francis Samson (left) and Mark Anthony Caballes with Butuan-Agusan Norte Football Association president Tito Clemente after being awarded scholarships by Banfa

Firebird paces NCA 7-stag derby

THE FRONT-RUNNING Firebird entry of hotelier-sportsman Biboy Enriquez is among the top favorites in the National Cockers Association (NCA) 7-Stag Derby scheduled Tuesday and Thursday, Sept. 7 and 9, at the fully air-conditioned Araneta Coliseum. Enriquez, who posted a 6-0 win-loss record during the opening day of Jimafer JVL Derby last Tuesday, will again field his newest battlecrosses of McLean Roundhead and Sweater Kelso. More than 40 big-time cockers and breeders will see action, among them derby co-host Raymond Velayo, Gov. Ito Ynares, GCAP stalwarts Sony Lagon, Patrick Antonio and Benjie Lim, Jorge "Nene" Araneta, former Ambassador Danding Cojuangco, Jun Santiago, newspaper publisher Butch Macasaet, Jet Fernando, Eddie Araneta, Boy Jiao, Tony Tan, Jun and Rudy Jingco, and Gerry Ramos. Action starts with the 3-stag elimination round (60 fights) on Tuesday starting at 5 p.m. All qualifiers will advance to the 4-stag finals on Thursday. Participants are reminded to submit entries on Monday at the Araneta Coliseum green gate, from 2 p.m. to 9 p.m. For inquiries, contact 9113101 and 9112928. Meanwhile, NCA president and Governor Ynares announced that this year's Stagfighter of the Year winner will receive a cash prize of P500,000.



ASIAN 14-UNDER SERIES: Philippine Tennis Association president Col. Salvador Andrada (second from right) poses with Futures Tennis Scholarship Foundation president lawyer Alberto Agra for the staging of the Futures Foundation-Asian 14-under Series sponsored by the Australian Open on Sept. 21-25 at the Ynares Socio-Cultural Sports Complex in Pasig City. From left, Philta secretary general Romeo Magat, executive vice president Manuel Misa, Agra, Andrada and youth development officer Ajay Pathak.

SEMIFINALS CAST COMPLETE

Archers shoot down M

GAMES TODAY (*Philsports Arena*)
11:30 a.m.—NU vs Ateneo (Jrs)
2 p.m.—NU vs Ateneo (Srs)
4 p.m.—UST vs FEU (Srs)

By Jasmine W. Payo

LA SALLE just dealt the University of the Philippines a bitter taste of reality.

The Archers will be trooping to the Final Four and the Maroons are not, after a 70-52 win snapped UP's six-game winning streak and eliminated it from further contention in the 67th UAAP senior basketball tournament yesterday at the Philsports Arena.

Guard Joseph Yeo led La Salle with 22 points, including 12 in the third quarter when the Archers seized command.

"We really prepared for it. I think we're getting our rhythm and we anticipated their physical ballgame," said coach Franz Pumaren after La Salle improved to 9-4, just half a game behind co-leaders Ateneo and Far Eastern.

La Salle thus booked its 11th straight Final Four appearance and finalized the semifinal cast, with the University of the East Warriors taking the fourth slot.

"It's just like giving UE a red-carpet treatment. I deserve a good dinner," Franz, whose father, Pilo, is an alumnus of UE and brother, Dindo, is the coach, said in jest.

But even though UE coach Dindo got help from his brother, the Warriors also did their part by busting the Adamson Falcons, 57-53, to climb to 8-5.

"We had a bad start, but luckily, it's still a win. Whatever happens, getting eight wins is already a big achievement for us," said Dindo, a rookie coach whose young team did not merit the attention of the oddsmakers during the pre-season.

La Salle jumped the gun on the Maroons, closing out the first period with a 21-11 lead before being threatened, 37-33, midway in the third period.

But a 12-3 bomb put the Archers firmly back on top, 49-36, as they made the most out of 14 UP turnovers in the final two periods. La Salle made a total of 18 points out of 35 total errors by the Maroons.

UE also held on to fourth spot in junior play after the Pages drubbed the Baby Falcons, 82-65.

The Scores:

Third game (Srs)

LA SALLE 70—Yeo 22, Cardona 11, Cabatu 11, Tang 10, Malerhoffer 5, Gaco 3, Villanueva 2, Gavino 2, Casio 2, Benitez 2, Araña 0.

UP 52—Cervantes 11, David 10, Ibañes 10, Santos 6, Ferrer 5, Quebral 4, Almeda 4, Agbayani 2, Gomez 0, Bienvenida 0, Buyco 0, Epres 0.

Quarters: 21-11, 31-26, 52-42, 70-52.

JOSEPH Yeo of La Salle scoops a layup past his defender. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

Enrile barred from Final Four

LETRAN Knights' main man, Ronjay Enrile, will miss the Final Four of the NCAA senior basketball tournament after he was slapped a one-game suspension for allegedly choking San Sebastian's Leo Najorda in their game last Friday.

Letran, though, is reportedly set to file an appeal. Enrile was also suspended last July after he allegedly spat at Perpetual Help's Noy Javier.

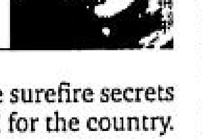
Unlike last year, Letran won't be enjoying a twice-to-beat advantage in the semifinals. One loss agai No. 2 Philippine Christian Univer ty will eliminate Letran.

Letran turned to the judic court last month to lift the susp sion of forward Frederick R driguez.

Jasmine W. Pa

Always the person

SPECTATOR



Al S. Mendoza

THE ONLY formula I know for us to win a gold medal in the 2008 Beijing Olympics is to enter in events that we have the strongest chances to win. These are boxing, taekwondo, weightlifting, athletics and swimming: Even gymnastics. Cycling, too. OK, because Jasmin Figueroa showed promise in Athens, let's include archery. And why not shooting, too?

Of the six events that we participated in in Athens, taekwondo, boxing and archery showed some ray of hope. But shooting, athletics and swimming? Purgatory.

Before we left for Athens, it was in boxing, as usual, that we had heavily pinned our chances on. That's because, even as we were shut out in Sydney, the three Olympiads preceding Sydney produced bronze-bronze-silver in Seoul '88, Barcelona '92 and Atlanta '96, respectively.

Boxing failed in both Sydney and Athens due to grievous errors from corner men, if not due to officials' last-minute meddling in strategy as what had been widely perceived in Athens when Harry Tañamor went for the body in his second fight—a move that completely contrasted to his head-hunting style, which was his forte.

Taekwondo got bad breaks in Sydney. But in Athens, well, biased scoring did our Mary Antoinette Rivero in. Rivero lost a crucial match to a Greek and, no matter what the world will say, we will always insist our 16-year-old bet fell victim to a hometown decision.

You think we've seen the last of hometown decisions in Athens?

Think again, fellas.

It will happen again. In Beijing in 2008, in Paris, London, New York, Toronto or Madrid in 2012 and for as long as the Olympiad lives. A hometown decision is as old as weed, as pernicious as prostitution, as indispensable as a barnacle.

In a morning interview over RMN 558 a while back, I told Rene Jose and Rey Pacheco of "Doble Banda" fame that government, the private sector and the athlete are the surefire secrets to a first Olympic gold for the country. Without this triumvirate, the dream for an Olympic gold will always remain that way: a dream.

This isn't new. And everybody can claim this is his/her idea.

However, the way this surefire secret is being treated, handled or implemented is wrong from the day it was discovered.

For example, athletes themselves view the secret in an extremely selfish, if not twisted, manner.

Look, many athletes have the habit of blaming government inaction for their setbacks. Lack of money, no training support, etcetera, etcetera.

As I told 558's Pareng Señor Rey, let's liken our athl born rich. His/her father is a penter, maybe, and mother etable vendor. In such a scen liken father and mother a ment and private; they can much to make their chil his/her dream/aim.

Now, the child wants to lege but pop and mom can o much. If the child is de he/she will pursue his dr He/she will find a job to hel his/her schooling—a self-s student in layman's term.

If all athletes think that w government and private hel sidy and not total suppor our Olympic gold has been h time ago already.

Always, I must insist it's a person. All the rest is but g as government and private s they've not been giving enou it. The athlete, because he/sh cided to embark on somethi

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TO HRABAK ERIK ARAZAS

Rubillar, Janiola fight in Mexico today

By Salven L. Lagumbay
Contributor

WORLD Boxing Council No. 1 junior fly Juanito Rubillar figures in the biggest fight of his career today as he faces WBC 108-lb king Jorge "Travieso" Arce in a 12-round showdown at the El Toreo in Tijuana, Baja California, Mexico.

Another Filipino, Wyndel "Braveheart" Janiola of Cebu, goes up against Mexican Eric Ortiz in another 12-rounder that will determine the next challenger to International Boxing Federation junior flyweight champ Victor Burgos.

A victory by Rubillar (33-8-7, 14 KO's) over Arce (36-3-1, 27 KO's) will give Filipino fight fans something to cheer about, in the light of recent developments that have put universal featherweight king Manny Pacquiao in the dark as to who his next foe will be.

FILIPINO challenger Juanito Rubillar flexes his muscles during weigh-in for today's battle in Tijuana, Mexico. SALVEN LAGUMBAY

"I must take care of Rubillar because the Philippine boxers are strong and good, as we have seen with what happened to (Marco Antonio) Barrera against (Manny) Pacquiao," said Arce, who revealed that he will next seek a unification fight with either the WBA or IBF champ, in yesterday's official weigh-in supervised by Roman Cruz of the Mexican Boxing Commission.

Both Arce and Rubillar hurdled the 108-lb regulatory weight limit.

Third man on the ring for the Arce-Rubillar tiff is Toby Gibson, while judges are David Harris, Roy Ovalle, and Gale Van Hoy.

Janiola weighed in at 108.4 lb, while Ortiz tipped the scales at 108.7 also during yesterday's official weigh-in for their IBF eliminator.

"I am ready to show my skills in front of Mexican boxing fans. I'm planning a big birthday bash on fight night," said Janiola, who will turn 25 today.

Ortiz, the reigning WBC Fecarbox champ, had earlier assured his local fans of a victory over the Cebu fighter.

IBF championship committee chair Lindsey Tucker, in an interview with this writer, revealed that the third man on the ring for the Janiola-Ortiz fight is Pat Russell of California, while the three judges are Fritz Werner and Jose Cobian of California, and a third judge handpicked by the Mexican Boxing Commission. Fight supervisor is Aaron Kizer, a member of the IBF Board of Directors.

aroons

Hawks soar to 66th win

By Marc Anthony Reyes

JUST another win. Just another step toward the Naascu basketball title a few doubt it would eventually wrap up.

Like any other day, University of Manila pulled off a methodical 97-72 victory over University of Makati at the Makati Coliseum yesterday to stay on track of a projected sweep to the championship.

The Hawks, proving themselves already out of this league by their sheer dominance, waylaid the Wizards for their 13th win in as many games, five more victories away from a spotless run to the finals, counting the three elimination games left and the best-of-three semifinal duel.

It was actually UM's 66th straight victory overall in the 4-year-old league, already a record of sorts in the history of collegiate basketball.

"I know that every team out there will go all out to break that spell, so we (have to) try to be the best every time we are out there on the court," said UM president and owner lawyer Ernesto de los Santos. "Having a 66-0 record is something we would always cherish."

UM, many-time intercollegiate champion, is already assured of making the Final Four along with idle host team St. Clare College of Caloocan (10-3). The next round will be a twin series between the No. 1 team and No. 4, and No. 2 versus No. 3.

In fact, UM has yet to lose a game since last year, a testament to the solid basketball prowess of the school steered by De los Santos and coach Loreto Tolentino.

Off guards Jovit Gomez and Gener Bernados proved unstoppable from all corners of the court and equally relentless under the goal, fashioning out double-to-double performances that proved too much for the Wizards, who dropped to 8-5.

Gomez had 24 points, 12 rebounds and three assists, while Bernados chipped in 20 points and 18 rebounds for the Hawks.

It was a twin victory for UM as the Baby Hawks trounced the Baby Wizards, 97-72. The Baby Hawks improved to 7-1, while Umak fell to 5-4.

The Scores:

Second Game (srs)

UM 97—Gomez 24, Bernados 20, Delostrinos 18, Salam 13, Regalado 4, Santiago 4, Uao 4, Caslpit 2, Litonjua 2, Ocampo 2, Payabyab 2, San Diego 2, Vidanes 0.

UMAK 72—Nograda 22, Mangaran 19, Tamaray 13, Domangcas 6, Banguibang 4, Javier 3, Sman 2, Barrios 2, Jacinto 1, Lorica 0.

Quarters: 35-19, 57-36, 73-57, 97-72.

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impossible, must be responsible for his/her action.

While at it, I think our athletes must take stock of the ABC in life: A as in "don't Accuse," B as in "don't Blame" and C as in "don't Criticize."

To this day, I still find it difficult to find a student giving me the right answer to this question: "If I don't earn a college degree, who will I blame?"

Mostly, they blame their parents. Not one has ever blamed himself/herself.

***

FASTBREAK. I envy my *Ninong* Pros Garcia. He now lives happily in his hometown of Mangatarem, Pangasinan, leaving behind a life of "smoke and choke" in the Big City that is Manila. Not quite 70 yet but looking like he is in his mid-50s only, *Ninong* Pros, once the no-nonsense sheriff of Marikina City, now tends to a backyard garden on Zamora Street where he loves to plant bananas and other vegetables "that make life better and comfortable the whole year round." Cheers, *Ninong* Pros!

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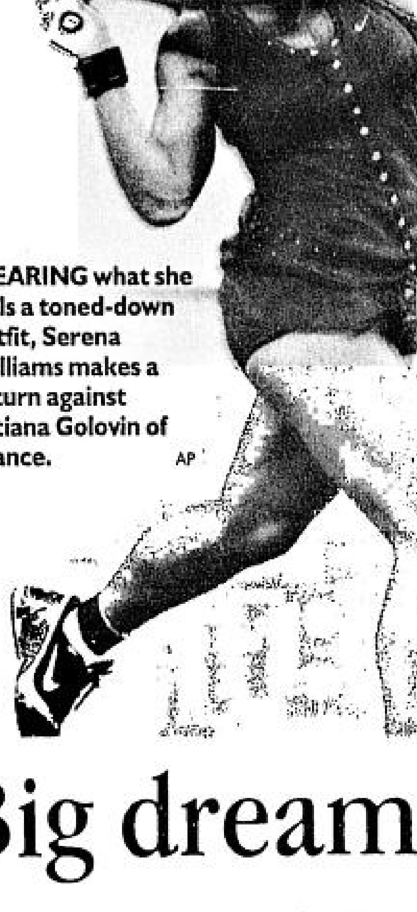
Angry Roddick, erratic Serena swamp foes



WEARING what she calls a toned-down outfit, Serena Williams makes a return against Tatiana Golovin of France. AP

NEW YORK—Andy Roddick scuffed his hand, scuffled with the chair umpire and barely shook hands with Rafael Nadal after defeating the Spaniard, 6-0, 6-3, 6-4, Friday.

Roddick lost his concentration and a bit of his composure—"Watch the damn ball!" he shouted at umpire Andreas Egli—but still beat Nadal to reach the third round.

"There's something about a night session at the Open that kind of gets inside you a little bit," Roddick said.

Serena Williams toned down her outfit, saying "an earring malfunction" was partly to blame. Her game also seemed a bit flat, though she beat 30th-seeded Tatiana Golovin of France, 7-5, 6-4, to advance to the fourth round.

Williams overcame a 4-1 deficit in the first set and won despite making 42 unforced errors. The two-time Open winner noticed that huge total on the big video screen at Arthur Ashe Stadium.

"I was playing two opponents: her and myself," Williams said.

The other favored women also moved on, with No. 2 Frenchwoman Amelie Mauresmo, No. 6 Elena Dementieva of Russia, No. 8 Jennifer Capriati, No. 10 Russian Vera Zvonareva and No. 15 Patty Schnyder of Switzerland winning. So did No. 16 Italian Francesca Schiavone, who eliminated popular American wild card Angela Haynes, 6-3, 7-6 (3).

Capriati took a minute or so longer than she expected to beat Russian teen Vera Douchevina, 6-0, 6-7 (4), 6-3.

Mauresmo defeated Maria Vento-Kabchi of Venezuela, 6-2, 6-0. Dementieva beat France's Nathalie Dechy via a walkover. Zvonareva ousted Fabiola Zuluaga of Colombia, 6-4, 7-5, while Schnyder booted out Daniela Hantuchova of Slovakia, 6-4, 4-6, 7-6 (6).

The men had a much harder time.

Last year's runner-up, No. 7 Juan Carlos Ferrero of Spain, lost to Austria's Stefan Koubek, 7-6 (2), 4-6, 6-7 (6), 6-2, 6-3. Also losing were No. 8 David Nalbandian of Argentina, a semifinalist last year ousted by Russian Mikhail Youzhny, 6-7 (4), 6-4, 7-5, 2-6, 6-4, and No. 12 Sebastien Grosjean of France, who lost to German Tommy Haas, 6-4, 6-4, 1-6, 6-1.

When No. 23 Vince Spadea fell to Austria's Jurgen Melzer, 6-3, 4-6, 3-6, 6-3, 6-4, only two US men were left—Roddick and Andre Agassi. Never before had fewer than three Americans reached the Open's third round.

Roddick tied his Open record with a 152 mph serve, with one rocket catching Nadal in the lip and another that sent the teen tumbling.

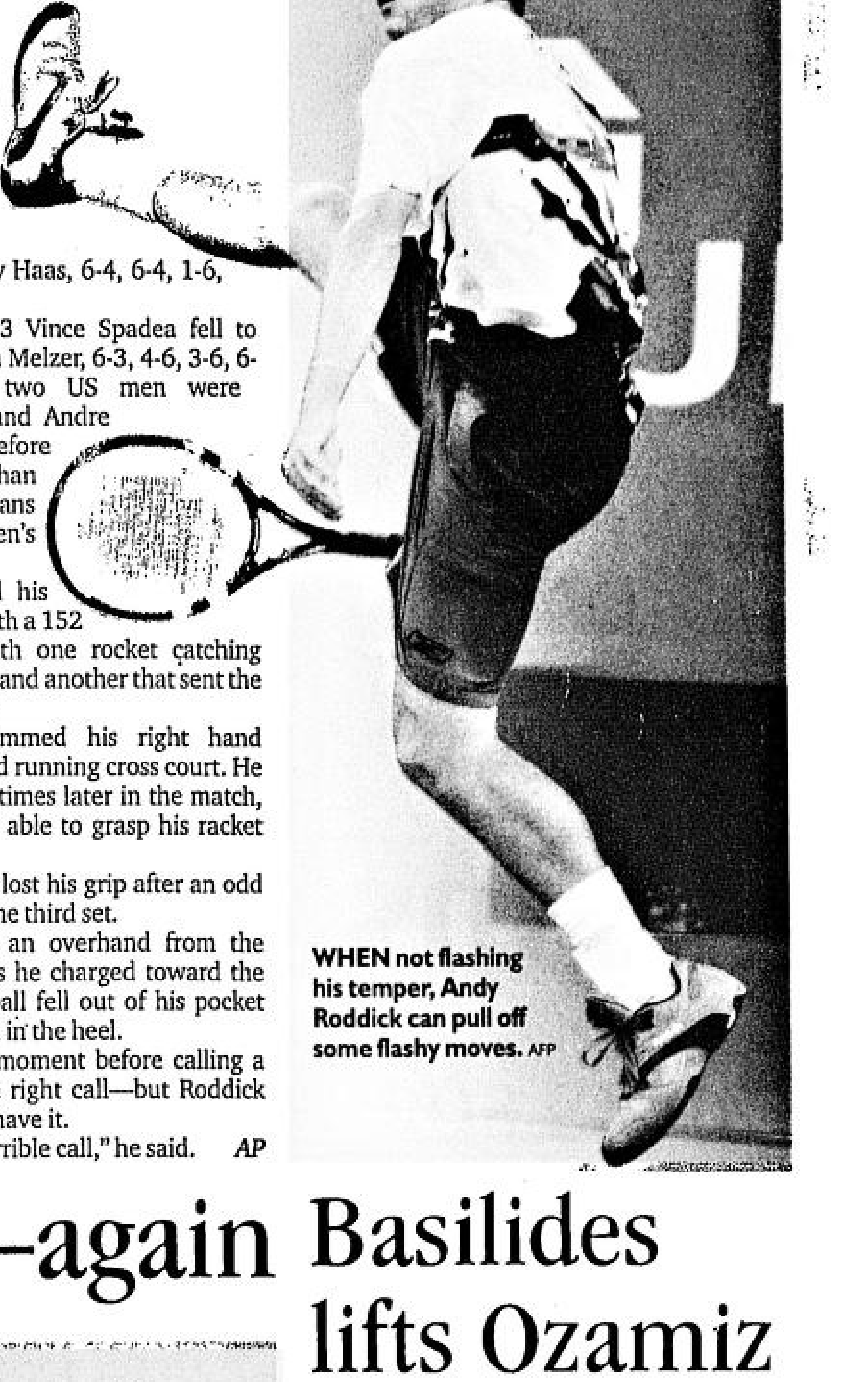
Roddick skimmed his right hand when he slipped running cross court. He flexed it a few times later in the match, though he was able to grasp his racket just fine.

But Roddick lost his grip after an odd occurrence in the third set.

Roddick hit an overhand from the baseline and as he charged toward the net, an extra ball fell out of his pocket and nicked him in the heel.

Egli took a moment before calling a let—it was the right call—but Roddick let the umpire have it.

"This is a horrible call," he said. *AP*



WHEN not flashing his temper, Andy Roddick can pull off some flashy moves. AFP

Big dreamer breaks world record—again

BRUSSELS, Belgium—Pole vaulter Yelena Isinbayeva of Russia and steeplechaser Saif Saaeed Shaheen of Qatar set world records at the Van Damme Memorial on Friday.

Isinbayeva set a world record for the second time in as many weeks and improved on the mark she set to win the Olympic title by one centimeter for a record height of 4.92 meters. It was her fifth record in two months.

"I want to be a legend," she said. "I like people to talk about me."

Shaheen, kept out of the Olympics because of a nationality switch from his native Kenya, set a world record in the 3,000-meter steeplechase of 7 minutes, 53.63 seconds, smashing the old mark of 7:55.28 set by Moroccan Brahim Boulami three years ago in Brussels.

Felix Sanchez's three-year winning streak in the 400 hurdles also ended when he was forced to abandon the race halfway through, apparently with a left thigh injury. It also threw the Dominican world and Olympic champion out of contention for the $1 million Golden League jackpot.

South African high jumper Hestrie Cloete also lost a shot at the jackpot when she was beaten by Olympic champion Yelena Slesarenko. That leaves just Olympic 400-meter champion Tonique Williams-Darling of the Bahamas and triple jump gold medalist Christian Olsson of Sweden to vie for the jackpot at the last Golden League meet in Berlin next week.

Double Olympic champion Hicham El Guerrouj abandoned his world record attempt in the 3,000 before the start, complaining of fatigue and illness.

BELGA

QATAR'S Saif Saaeed Shaheen rushes to beat a three-year-old world record. In contrast, Russian Yelena Isinbayeva (inset) coolly poses after shattering the pole vault mark five times in the last two months. REUTERS

Capping a night of excitement for the sellout crowd of 47,000 at the King Baudouin Stadium, Isinbayeva stole the show again, missing twice at the record height before easily clearing it on her last jump.

The crowd went delirious when she shouted "I love you," over the public address system then danced round the track to Tina Turner's "Simply the Best."

When Shaheen was far ahead with 50 meters remaining, he began celebrating near the top of the straight by thrusting his finger in the air. *AP*

Basilides lifts Ozamiz with jumper

OZAMIZ CITY—Ex-pro Rollie Balisides knocked in an off-balance jumper in the last 2.2 seconds to lift Ozamiz City past Spring Cooking Oil-backed Laguna Spring, 68-67, Friday night in the crossover phase of the NBC (National Basketball Conference) national championship at the Gov. Angel Medina Sr. gym here.

The 6-foot-3 forward fumbled at the top of the key before eluding the defense of Mike Garcia to score the winning basket to the joy of the partisan crowd.

The team of NBC president Nathaniel "Tac" Padilla and Gov. Teresita "Ningning" Lazaro suffered its fifth loss in 11 games in the tournament backed by Panasonic, Spring Cooking Oil, PCSO, Sulpicio Lines, Nature's Spring Mineral Water, Cebu Ferries, Air Philippines, Supercat, Skygo Motorcycles, Trans-Asia, Accel and Molten.

Former Purefoods point guard Egay Echavez made three technical freethrows and a layup to give Mayor Reynaldo Parojinog's Cotta a 45-40 lead. He finished the game with 27 points.

UA-P snaps two-game losing skid

UNIVERSITY of the Assumption-Pampanga snapped a two-game losing skid yesterday when it turned back Emilio Aguinaldo College, 53-45, in the WNCAA 35th season at the St. Scholastica gym.

The UA-P Lady Pelicans last won on August 21, 61-35, over Siena College of Quezon City but lost their succeeding assignments to defending champion College of St. Benilde and newcomer Centro Escolar University.

The win gave UA-P a 2-2 card while EAC absorbed its fourth setback in as many games.

UA-P will try to notch its third win today when it meets St. Scholastica's College in the first seniors game at 12:30 p.m.

Miriam College and De La Salle Zobel, meanwhile, remained unbeaten in three games in the juniors level.

Miriam stopped St. Stephen's High School, 85-41, while DLSZ downed St. Scho, 69-60.

Fan hurts knee and feet to honor Thai boxer

BANGKOK, Thailand—A Thai sports fan was struggling with swollen knees and blistering feet Saturday, halfway through an epic run in honor of Thailand's Olympic gold medal winning boxer Manus Boonjamnong.

Uthen Theekayu, 41, a waiter in the eastern town of Rayong, set off Wednesday to fulfill a vow that he would run from his home to that of any Thai boxer to win an Olympic gold medal.

Thailand's only boxing gold was won by Manus, who lives in the southwestern town of Ratchaburi, about 400 kilometers (250 miles) by road from Rayong.

Uthen told The Associated Press via telephone that he runs about six to eight hours every day and stops for meals. He said he spends the night at bus stops or in highway police stations.

He said he initially planned to reach Ratchaburi within six days, but now figures it will take several days more because of his knee and feet problems.

"I have to fight the pain to reach Manus' house to fulfill my vow, even if it takes several days longer," Uthen said while resting in Bangphakong district, about 50 kilometers (30 miles) east of Bangkok.

Highway police officers escorting him offered to give him a lift in their cars but he refused.

"I have vowed to get there on my feet so I have to try," he said. "I cannot get into (a) car."

In its best Olympic showing ever, Thailand won a total of eight medals, including two golds and two bronzes for women's weightlifting, a bronze for taekwondo and a gold, silver and bronze in boxing.

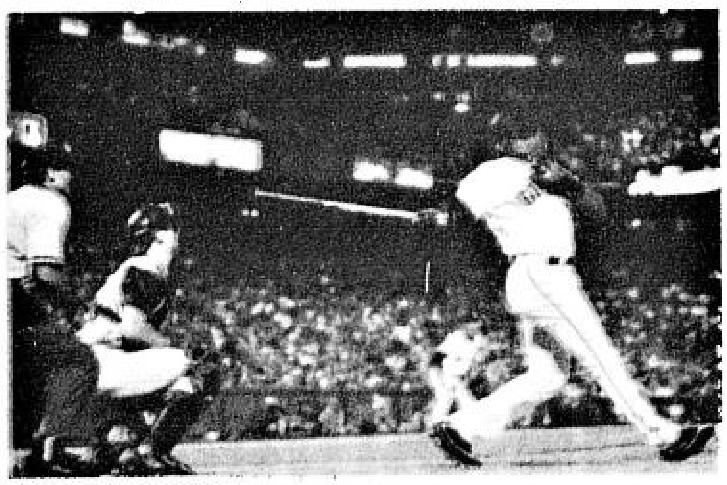
In Sisaket province, a relative of Wandee Khamaim, a woman, bronze medal winning weightlifter has vowed to dance over a distance of 10 kilometers (6 miles) and offered nine heads of pigs at a shrine.

Other relatives of Thai athletes who won medals have vowed to become Buddhist monks for brief periods.

Thailand's eight medals, placed fourth in the medal rankings among Asian nations after China, Japan and South Korea, triggering a wave of celebrations all over the country.

The athletes also became instant millionaires after being handed out cash incentives by the government.

"We will not stop here," said Maj. Gen. Intharat Yhodbangtoey, who heads the country's weightlifting association. *AP*



BONDS AWAY

Barry Bonds of the San Francisco Giants hits career home run No. 697 against the Arizona Diamondbacks. The Giants swatted the Diamondbacks, 18-7. AFP

Paragua boosts bid for 2nd GM result

FILIPINO International Master Mark Paragua scored back-to-back victories in the Alushta GM tournament to boost his bid for a Grandmaster result in the coastal town of Crimea in Alushta, Crimea, Ukraine.

The 20-year old Paragua won his 9th and 10th round games against GM Sergey Kalygin of Russia and IM Dimitry Tishin of Ukraine, respectively, and got back in the hunt for his second GM result.

Although he needs to score 10.5 points in this Category IX event for 16 players (15 games), there is a possibility for the young Paragua to achieve his second GM result if he could score 1.5 points in his next two games against GM Ramil Hasangatin of Russia and the tournament's top seed, GM Vladimir Malaniuk of Ukraine.

FIDE rules stipulate that in a round robin tournament, a player can obtain a GM result in twelve rounds, playing against three GMs, five or more players not from one and the same federation by scoring 8.5 points.

PARAGUA

"It's hard to score 1.5 points against two GMs, but I think I can do it because I have similar experiences. Like in Mondariz when I got my first GM norm, the situation was the same," said Paragua, the 1998 World Rapid Under-14 champion through an e-mail yesterday.

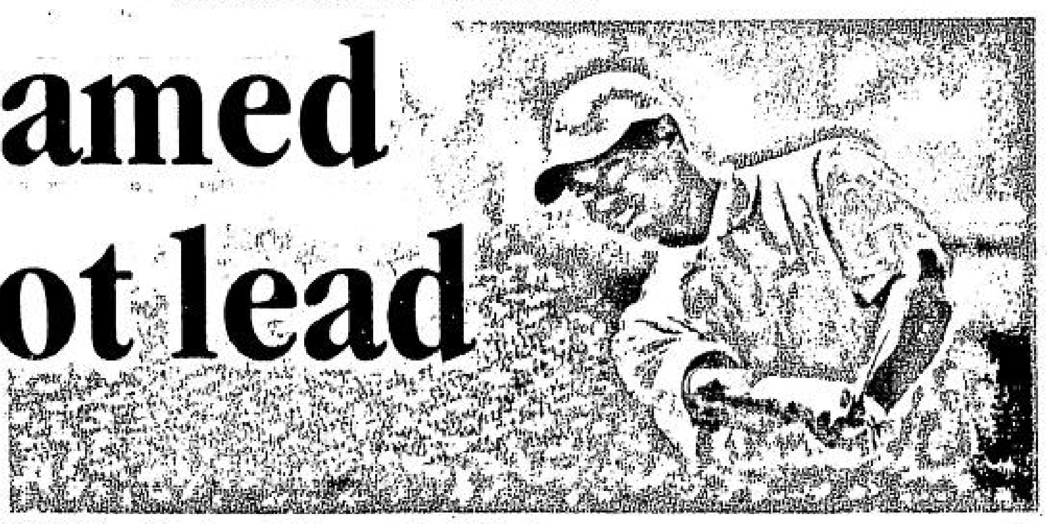
Paragua, who three weeks ago won the Genova Open and two blitz tournaments, trails IM Yuriy Kuzubov of Ukraine who has 7.5 points.

"My strategy in the next two games is to play for a win with white against GM Hasangatin and force a draw with GM Malaniuk," said Paragua.

Meanwhile, the 1st Mayor Joaquin Chipeco Executive & Expert-Below Chess Clinic will take place on Sept. 11 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Riverview Resort & Conference Center in Parian, Calamba City.

Speaker/lecturer FIDE master Jesse Noel Sales will discuss the "Theories of D4 Opening" and "Play Using NF3 as the First Move." For inquiries: call 0919-7059321. *Marlon Bernardino*

Woods and a guy named Palmer share 1-shot lead



TIGER Woods blasts out of a trap on the 18th hole. AFP

NORTON, Massachusetts—Palmer and Woods. How's that for a leaderboard?

Too bad it's tour rookie Ryan Palmer—not Arnold—sharing the lead with Tiger Woods after one round in the Deutsche Bank Championship. The two shot 6-under 65s Friday on the TPC of Boston to take a one-stroke lead over Mark O'Meara and two others.

"It's been a great ride so far," Palmer said. "It's been everything I expected. It's unbelievable—a dream come true."

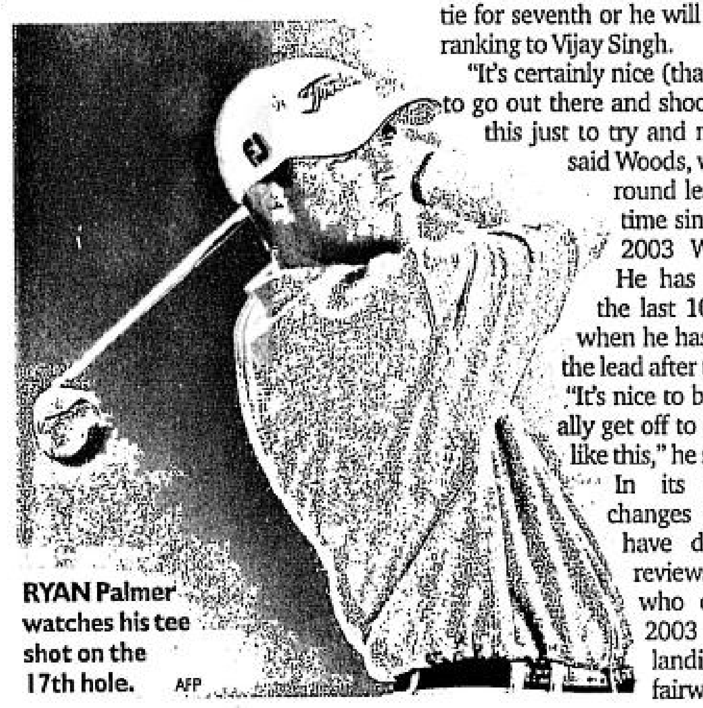
Palmer, who has missed more cuts (13) than he has made (12) this season, is 130th on the money list and hoping to crack the top 125 to retain his tour card.

Woods needs to finish better than a tie for seventh or he will lose his No. 1 ranking to Vijay Singh.

"It's certainly nice (that) I don't have to go out there and shoot a round like this just to try and make the cut," said Woods, who has a first-round lead for the first time since he won the 2003 Western Open.

He has won eight of the last 10 tournaments when he has led or shared the lead after the first round.

"It's nice to be able to actually get off to a positive start like this," he said.



RYAN Palmer watches his tee shot on the 17th hole. AFP

In its second year, changes to the course have drawn positive reviews from players who complained in 2003 about narrow landing areas in the fairways and severe slopes on the greens. Tournament officials and sponsors are expected to announce over the weekend that they will bring the event back next year.

Woods is a sort of unofficial host of the tournament that benefits the Tiger Woods Foundation, and he has promised to donate his earnings—as much as $900,000 to the winner—to the charity. He makes the same pledge at the Target World Challenge, where he has won and twice finished second.

Woods was having a good day even before he hit the course Friday: O'Meara, Woods' neighbor and tour mentor, was the leader in the clubhouse when Woods teed off in the afternoon.

"Any time you have one of your best buds up there top of the board, it's always cool," Woods said. "Mark, boy, he's been like a big brother, really."

The 47-year-old O'Meara won in Dubai this year but he admitted he didn't figure to be a threat on the 6,674-meter (7,415-yard) course. But he has shown that he still has some golf left in him before he makes the turn to the Champions Tour and a life of fly fishing.

O'Meara was tied with Cameron Beckman and Jonathan Byrd at 5 under. Five were tied at two strokes back and Singh was among 10 tied at 68. Defending champion Adam Scott opened with a 69. *AP*

Naga City completes seminar in archery

NAGA CITY—The Bicol regional recently held an archery coaching and judging seminar.

Sports Commissioner Ambrosio B. de Luna opened the four-day event organized by the Naga City Sports Council and sponsored by Doosung Corporation of South Korea, with 100 participants from the various DepEd schools divisions in the Bicol region.

With De Luna were National Archery Association of the Philippines president Dr. Lenora Fe S. Brawner, regional DepEd director Dr. Teresita D. Naz, and Pedro Lee, who is the council's overall chair of the host Naga City Sports Council.

The seminar lecturers were Dennis B. Torre of the DepEd Division of Pasig, Ms Mildred M. de Leon of the Calamba Division. Korean archery coach Mun Baek Woon, the trainer of the national archery training pool, was also present during the opening day.

The seminar was assisted by Doosung Corporation of South Korea, the maker of quality bows, arrows and archery accessories, Department of Education Bicol regional office and the Naga City division of schools.

Araneta Center
ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

ALI MALL CINEPLEX

3	Dolby	ANACONDAS 12:10 pm 2:25 pm 4 :40 pm 6:55 pm 9:10 pm
4	SDDS	JANDARA 11:35 am 1:55 pm 4:15 pm 6:35 pm 8:55 pm
5	dts	ALIEN vs PREDATOR 12:10 pm 2:25 pm 4 :40 pm 6:55 pm 9:10 pm
6	Dolby	THE NOTEBOOK 11:00 am 1:30 pm 4:00 pm 6:30 pm 9:00 pm
7	Dolby	PRINCESS DIARIES 2 1:25 pm 3:55 pm 6:25 pm 8:55 pm

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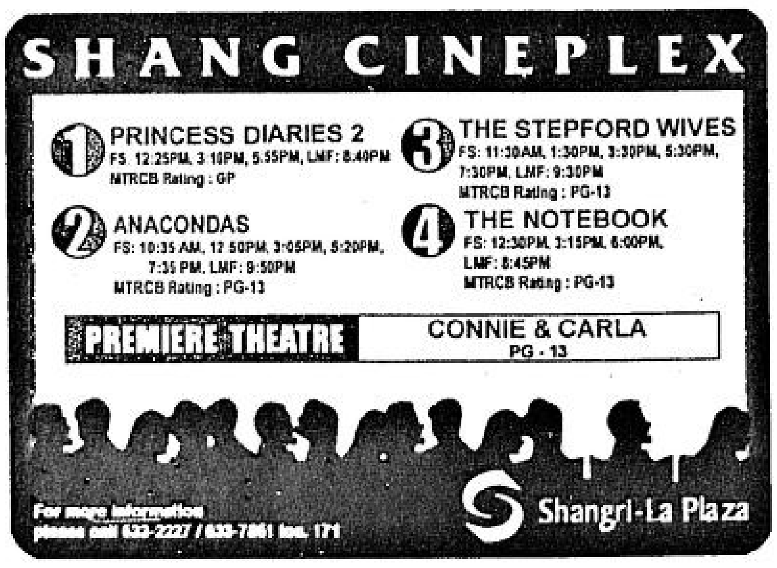

SHANG CINEPLEX

1 PRINCESS DIARIES 2
FS. 12:25PM, 3:10PM, 5:55PM, LMF: 8:40PM
MTRCB Rating : GP

2 ANACONDAS
FS: 10:35 AM, 12:50PM, 3:05PM, 5:20PM, 7:35 PM, LMF: 9:50PM
MTRCB Rating : PG-13

3 THE STEPFORD WIVES
FS: 11:30AM, 1:30PM, 3:30PM, 5:30PM, 7:30PM, LMF: 9:30PM
MTRCB Rating : PG-13

4 THE NOTEBOOK
FS: 12:30PM, 3:15PM, 6:00PM, LMF: 8:45PM
MTRCB Rating : PG-13

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THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	SEX BOMB / RAMPADORA
ODEON	X-MEN 2
ODEON-2	BUKID AY BASA / KASIBULAN
ROBEN	BOLD STAR
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	SPY : LEGEND OF CROCODILE

QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET A	ALYZS BOMBA QUEEN / DI MAPIGIL NA INIT
CORONET B	A MAN APART
QUEZON-1	BERTUD NG PUTIK
REMAR	X-MEN 2
REMAR-2	BOLD STAR

NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	HAMOG
B	CLOSED
C	

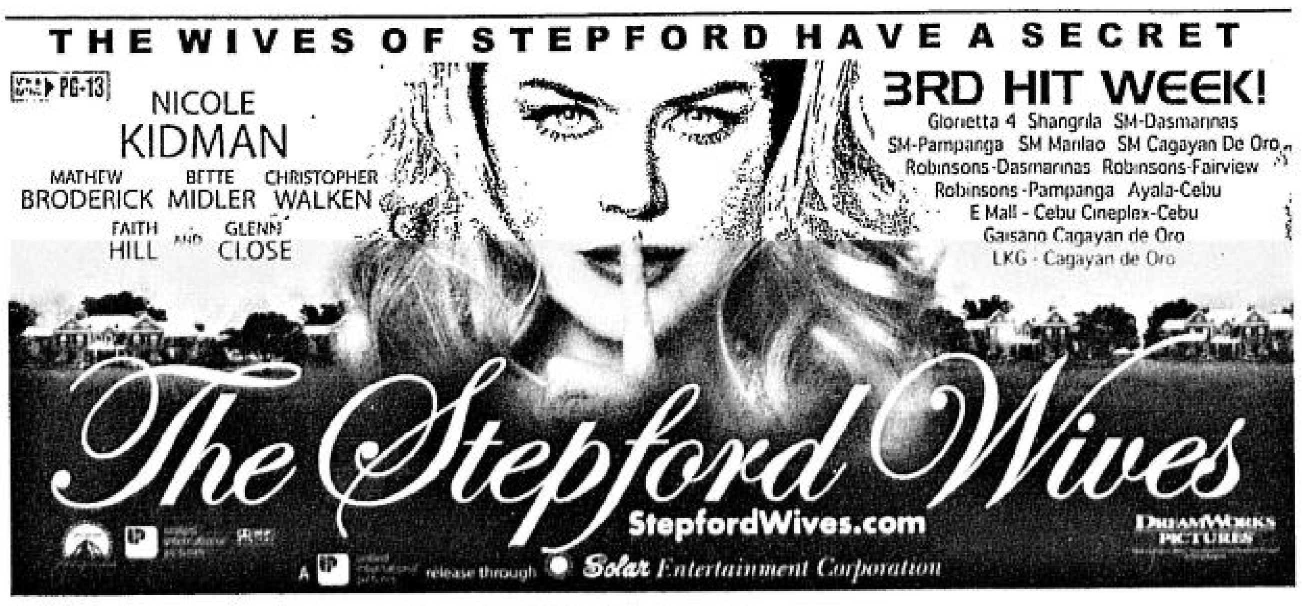
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA 1, 2,3 & 4	PRINCESS DIARIES 2, ANACONDAS, STEPFORD WIVES, THE NOTEBOOK
PREMIERE THEATRE	CONNIE & CARLA

CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
CINEMA-2	HAMOG
CINEMA-3	THE VILLAGE
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	ANACONDAS
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	SUGAT (RE-ISSUE)
CINEMA-6	BANGKOK HAUNTED 2
CINEMA-7	LAWS OF ATTRACTION
CINEMA-8	THUNDERBIRDS
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	ANACONDAS
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	ANACONDAS
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	PRINCESS DIARIES 2
CINEMA-12	THE NOTEBOOK
CINEMA-14	JANDARA
CINEMA-15	ALIEN VS. PREDATOR

LORES	
CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT

NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN	
(LAS PINAS)	ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
CINEMA-1	NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
CINEMA-2	GARFIELD
CINEMA-4	VILLAGE

UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARANAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA



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PG-13

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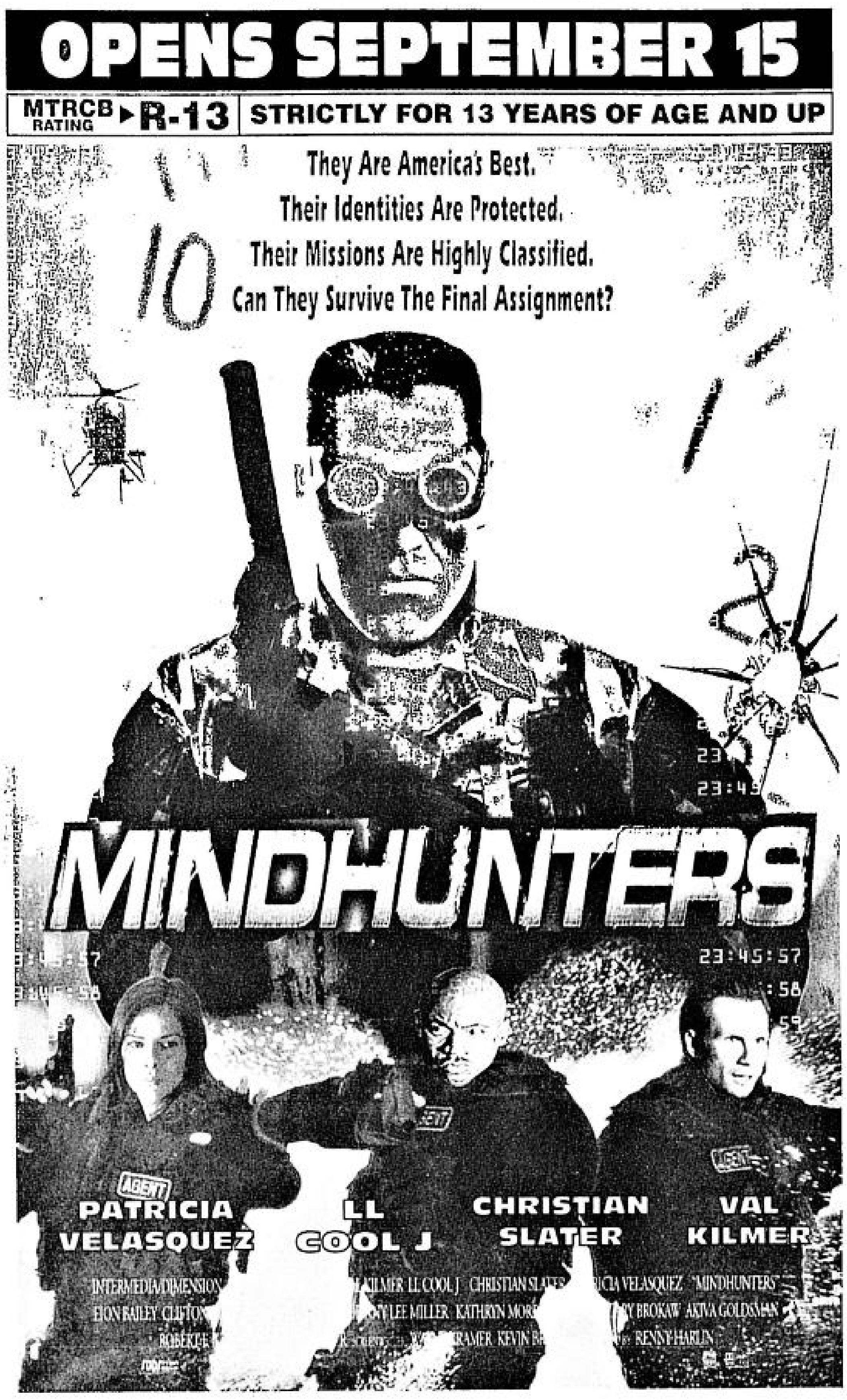

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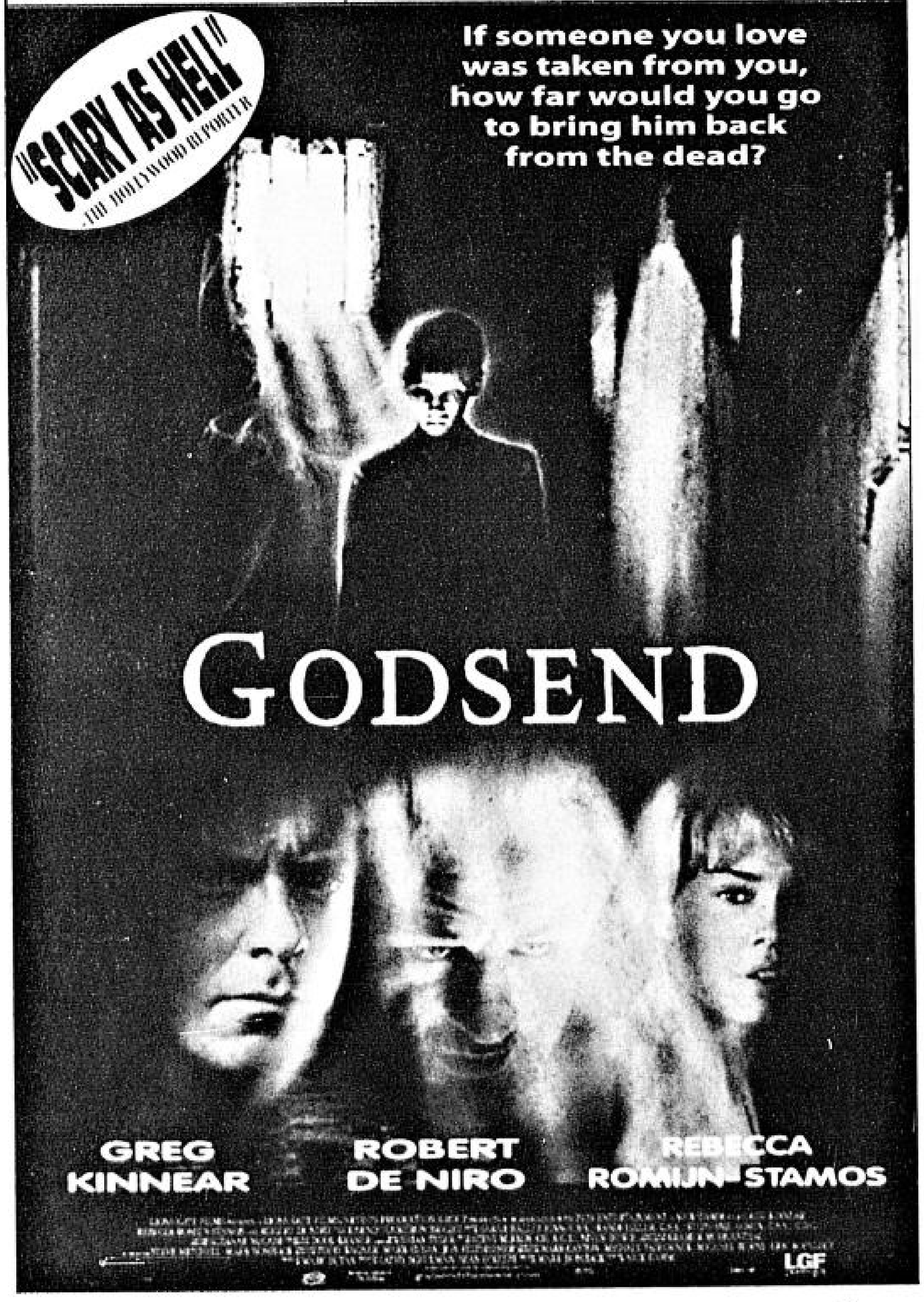

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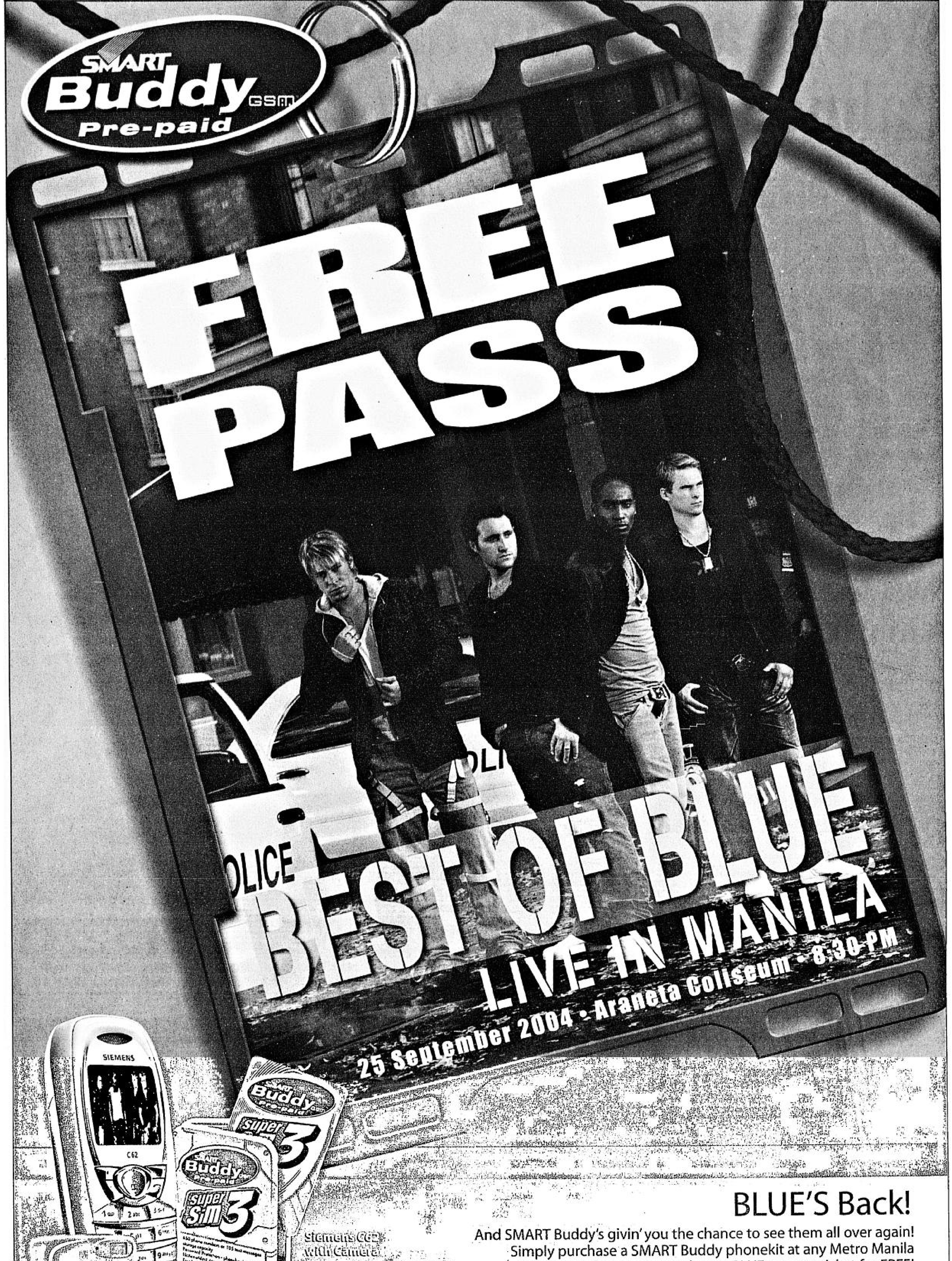
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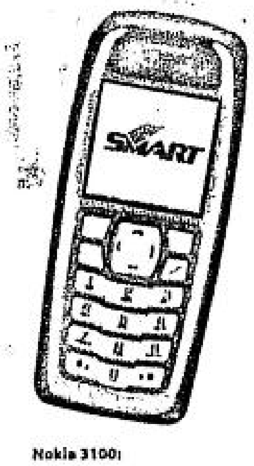
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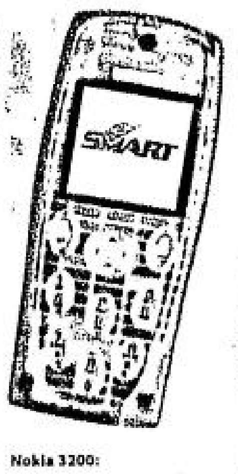
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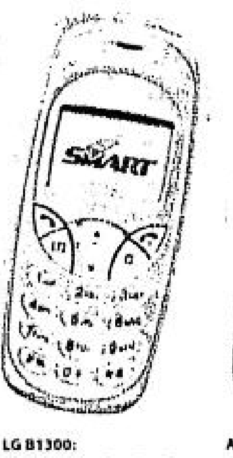
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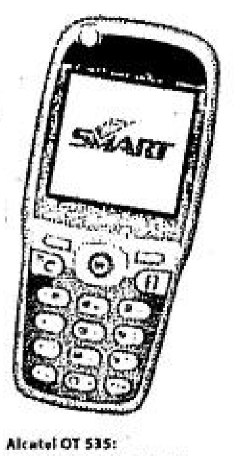
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'Crying Ladies' is RP entry in '04 Oscars

LUCKY "LADIES." Mark Meily's "Crying Ladies," which hopes to make it to the best foreign language film category in the Academy Awards, is now showing in the Montreal film festival. It stars (from left) Angel Aquino, Sharon Cuneta and Hilda Koronel.

By Leah C. Salterio
Contributor

UNITEL Pictures' "Crying Ladies," starring Sharon Cuneta and directed by Mark Meily, has been chosen as the Philippine entry to the Oscars' best foreign language film category next year.

Producer Tony Gloria last Aug. 31 received a letter from the Film Academy of the Philippines (FAP) informing him of the selection of "Crying Ladies" for the Oscar derby. The FAP selects the official Philippine entry in the Academy Awards.

The letter, signed by FAP director general Leo Martinez, said "Crying Ladies" was picked by the body's selection committee. The film should be submitted with English subtitles to the Academy for Motion Picture Arts and Sciences (Ampas), the organization which hands out the Oscars, not later than Oct. 1.

"We are very happy and privileged that 'Crying Ladies' has been chosen as the country's entry in the Oscars," Gloria told INQUIRER Entertainment in a phone interview last Friday. "Our film is the country's best bet to the Oscars and we are competing with the best from around the world. I know it's a long way from landing as one of the finalists, but to be selected is already an honor in itself."

"Crying Ladies," Meily's directorial debut, was Unitel Pictures' official entry in last December's Metro Manila Film Festival (MMFF), where it bagged five major awards, including best picture.

Gloria said "Crying Ladies" is now being shown in the Montreal Film Festival's Asian Cinema category, where it is also nominated for the audience award and for first-time film director. The film has been subtitled in English.

"Mark Meily is now in Montreal and he said there's a good crowd watching the film, with lots of foreigners," Gloria offered.

Pusan festival

Filmed with a budget of P20 million, "Crying Ladies" has grossed P65 million in the Philippines alone. Through Gloria's marketing and distribution arm, Unico Entertainment, the film has made the rounds of the commercial exhibition circuit in the United States, where it earned good reviews.

At the MMFF last December, "Crying Ladies" also bagged the awards for best supporting actress for Hilda Koronel, best supporting actor for Eric Quizon, best child actor for Julio Pacheco and best director for Meily.

So far, no Philippine film has made it to the finals in the Oscar best foreign language film category. Other local films which have been entered in the category are Tikoy Aguiluz's "Segurista" (1997), Gil Portes' "Gatas . . . Sa Dibdib ng Kaaway" (1999), "Markova: Comfort Gay" (2000), "Saranggola" (2001) and "Mga Munting Tinig" (2003), Marilou Diaz-Abaya's "Sa Pusod ng Dagat" (1998) and Chito Roño's "Dekada '70" (2002).

Prior to the FAP selection of "Crying Ladies" for the Oscars, Unitel Pictures' upcoming film, "Santa-Santita," was invited to the 9th Pusan International Film Festival in Korea, where it will be shown in the Pusan Promotion Plan (PPP).

In a letter to Gloria, festival organizers explained that the PPP is a project market for new Asian films. It also allows filmmakers to find co-financiers or co-producers. Last year, more than a thousand professionals from over 35 countries attended the more than 500 meetings in the PPP.

P25 million

Unitel's "Santa-Santita," directed by Laurice Guillen, is a modern Magdalene story based on Jerry Gracio's screenplay which won in the Film Foundation of the Philippines' scriptwriting competition four years ago. Guillen bought the rights to the winning script.

"Santa-Santita" is one of the 23 "outstanding projects" to be introduced at the PPP in Pusan. Gloria and Guillen are flying to the port city of Pusan, Korea, next month to attend the festival.

Filmed with a budget of P25 million, "Santa-Santita" stars Angelica Panganiban, who was chosen after a very long search. The other two main stars are Jericho Rosales as the devilish young man and Johnny Delgado as a troubled priest.

The indie producer said "Santa-Santita" is the first Philippine movie to be shot in Varicam-HD, similar to Michael Mann's "Collateral," which stars Tom Cruise. HD was also the same technique used in the Milo Olympic commercial, which features Olympic athletes such as basketball star Mon Fernandez, swimmer Christine Jacob, gymnast Bea Lucero and taekwondo champion Monsour del Rosario.

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Saving All My Love For You by *Whitney Houston*	JAS7
The Way You Look Tonight by *Frank Sinatra*	JAS8
Breathe by *Faith Hill*	JAS9
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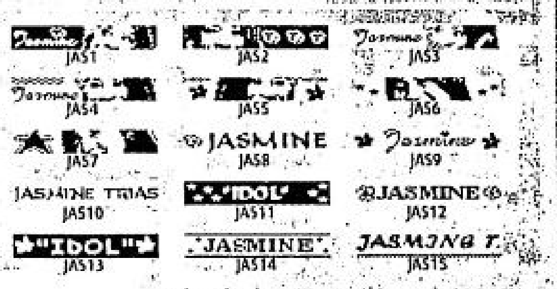

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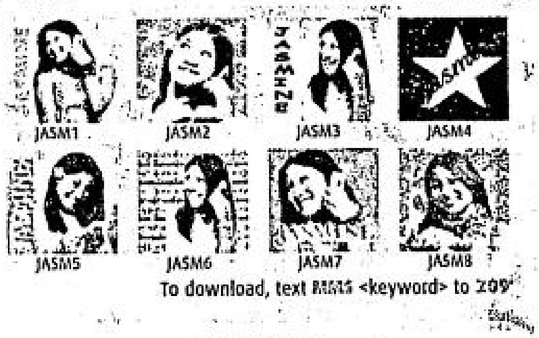

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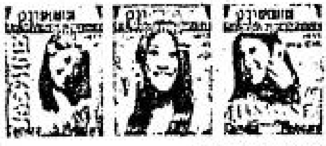

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SMART Simply Amazing!

GMA 7 questions Adboard move on overloading

By Nini Valera

A NETWORK executive has questioned the move by the Advertising Board of the Philippines (AdBoard) and its nine member associations to penalize broadcast media suppliers, which are not members of the AdBoard, that are found to be violating the 18-minute-per-hour commercial load.

Manuel P. Quiogue, president and chief operating officer of GMA 7 Marketing and Productions Inc., is also asking why a statement of concern pertaining to commercial overloading, signed by the AdBoard and its members, has found its way to newspaper columns when nothing has been finalized yet.

The statement of concern, dated July 22, also proposed the adoption of a contractual obligation between the media supplier and the advertiser so "that for any violation by an AdBoard nonmember" of the rule on commercial overloading, "the broadcast media supplier shall pay the advertiser a fine equivalent to the amount of the advertising fee for the program where the violation was committed, multiplied by the number of excess advertising minutes for the program, plus 20 percent thereof, and further multiplied by the ratio of the total time of the advertisements aired during the said program."

Last straw

GMA 7 is not a member of the KBP, which is an associate member of the AdBoard. The network left the Kapisanan ng mga Brodkaster ng Pilipinas last year "because we felt their implementation of the rules was uneven," according to Quiogue.

He cited the suspension by the KBP of former "StarTalk" co-host Rosanna Roces last year, and the fining of news anchor Mike Enriquez "for something he did years ago."

"The last straw was the issue on commercial overloading," Quiogue said.

While he admitted that the network had been going beyond the 18-minute rule, "we will abide with AdBoard's regulation of content," Quiogue said.

"We will honor that because we believe in regulating commercial content. But on the 18-minute limit, what Atty. (Felipe) Gozon (GMA 7 president) said was, why is that rule being implemented now and not when ABS-CBN was lording it over the industry? And when they overloaded, why were they not fined?

"Now that GMA 7 has grown stronger (in terms of ratings), that rule is being cited. Where were they when the other side was overloading?

"So because of that, we said we would rather leave the KBP because we feel it hasn't been fair."

Where did it come from?

Quiogue said they also questioned the 18-minute commercial limit.

"Where did that come from? In other countries, it's 12 minutes, 14 minutes. Is there a scientific basis to the (18-minute limit)?"

He said GMA 7 has asked the AdBoard to conduct a study to determine what is the ideal commercial load, taking into consideration the viewers and the advertising clutter.

"Whatever the findings of the study, we're willing to abide by these just as long as there's a scientific basis," Quiogue said. "Right now, we don't know where the 18 minutes came from."

Signatories

He said the AdBoard agreed to do the study. But GMA 7 still did not follow the 18-minute rule, Quiogue admitted, and loaded commercials for as much as 20 minutes per hour last year.

This year, GMA 7 set an internal limit of 19 minutes for commercial loads.

Last May, GMA 7 and AdBoard met again, Quiogue said.

"They (AdBoard) were concerned," he said. "They said we were the only ones not following the overloading rule. We told them we did not believe in the 18 minutes. We also urged them to do the study. To be honest to them, we also told them that come political season, we would be adding another minute dedicated to political ads. We left it at that.

"Then came this burst of publicity singling us out. We reminded AdBoard they were supposed to conduct a study."

Quiogue also pointed out that the signatories in the AdBoard's letter of concern had non-broadcast identities. Aside from the KBP, the signatories are the Advertising Suppliers Association of the Philippines, Philippine Association of National Advertisers, Association of Accredited Advertising Agencies, Cinema Advertising Association, Independent Blocktimers Association, Marketing and Opinion Research Society, Outdoor Advertising Association, and the United Print Media Group.

"Our point is we know best how to conduct our business," Quiogue said. "If we overload commercials and we lose viewers, then the advertisers will leave us. So why can't we be the judge of how best to conduct our business?"

Criminal act

He said that since last year, GMA 7's ratings have gone higher than in the previous years, and in December 2003 and last January, the network had overtaken the No. 1 rating of ABS-CBN.

"If this overloading of commercials is really hurting our viewers, why have our ratings continued to go up?" he asked. "Is it really hurting viewers? That's our point. At the end of the day, if our load of commercials is already starting to hurt our ratings, then we're definitely not going to take the risk. That's our business. Why would anyone tell us how much to load?"

Lawyers of the network had also cited a case in the US where the National Advertising Board lost its case for regulating commercial time on television, according to Quiogue.

In the Philippines, imposing a time limit on television commercials is a "restraint of trade and is also a criminal act," according to Quiogue.

"That's what our lawyers found out," he claimed. "But we don't want to have to go to court. All we want is for the AdBoard to finish its study and discuss it with us. If the methodology is aboveboard, etc., then we will abide by it."

Outlandish makeovers

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

NO SOONER had we finished writing our recent appreciation of "The Swan," ending by speculating that a local facsimile wasn't far behind, that Channel 2 started telecasting "Born Diva," which, like "The Swan," involves a "total" makeover of its contestants.

This time, however, the field has been narrowed down to female singers, especially of the *birit* sort. The makeover factor is simply there to enhance the singers' already considerable talent (and volume).

Compared with "The Swan's" rigorous procedures, the diva search's initiatives are more nominal. So, while the "inspiration" is clear, the diva competition effectively strikes out on its own in some of its aspects.

We viewed the program's first telecast and appreciated its two initial contestants' singing talent. On point of vocal performance, both **Shayne Corpuz** and **Kelly Salcedo** were both winners.

But Shayne was chosen over Kelly because her "total packaging" came off better.

Truth to tell, however, we felt that both singers were poorly served by the makeover they were made to undergo. Shayne's face looked better and her gown effectively added to her allure, but she was given a frizzy, glittery hairstyle that totally upstaged her. Some stylists simply don't know when to stop.

Kelly came off even worse, because her hairstyle, makeup and gown all conspired against her, not a sight for sore eyes, but a sore sight for eyes.

That was a great pity because Kelly had a really good voice, and when she was shown before her drastic and unenlightened makeover, she didn't look bad at all.

A word of caution, therefore, to the show's overly enthusiastic stylists: The "diva" look doesn't have to be excessively lush and outrageous—and, definitely, never gay!

Take a gander at the program's host, **Zsa Zsa Padilla.** She's a certified diva, and yet she doesn't look like a show biz gargoyle. She's a testament to the correctness of the dictum "less is more," and the show's contestants should be packaged more like her than like florid local versions of **Diana Ross** and **Shirley Bassey.**

On point of performance, though, we must caution Zsa Zsa that she sings too often during the show. As the program's host, she should really do only one number with the contestants and leave most of the singing in the show to them.

We're saying this not because we don't appreciate Zsa Zsa's singing, but as a reminder to her that the show is a singing competition, so the focus should be on the competitors, not the host.

Summing up, we like the high level of singing talent on "Born Diva," but its contestants should be packaged in a much less outlandish fashion, and the show's focus should be on them, above all else.

If these key adjustments are made, the show could become a really rewarding and even exciting viewing treat, and can come up with winners who could give some of our established divas a run for their *birit*!

PADILLA. As host, she should leave most of the singing to the contestants.

'The Maestro & His Music'

CONCERT at the Park at 5 p.m. today features the UST Wind Orchestra under professor **Hermie Ranera** in a program titled "The Maestro & His Music." Soloist is visiting trumpet player **Rommel Reyes.**

Camille Lopez-Molina

SOPRANO Camille Lopez-Molina is the featured soloist in the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra's "Coming Home" concert at the CCP on Sept. 10. She will be performing **Samuel Barber's** "Knoxville: Summer of 1915," with text by **James Agee**. Call 8321125, locals 1801 to 1806.

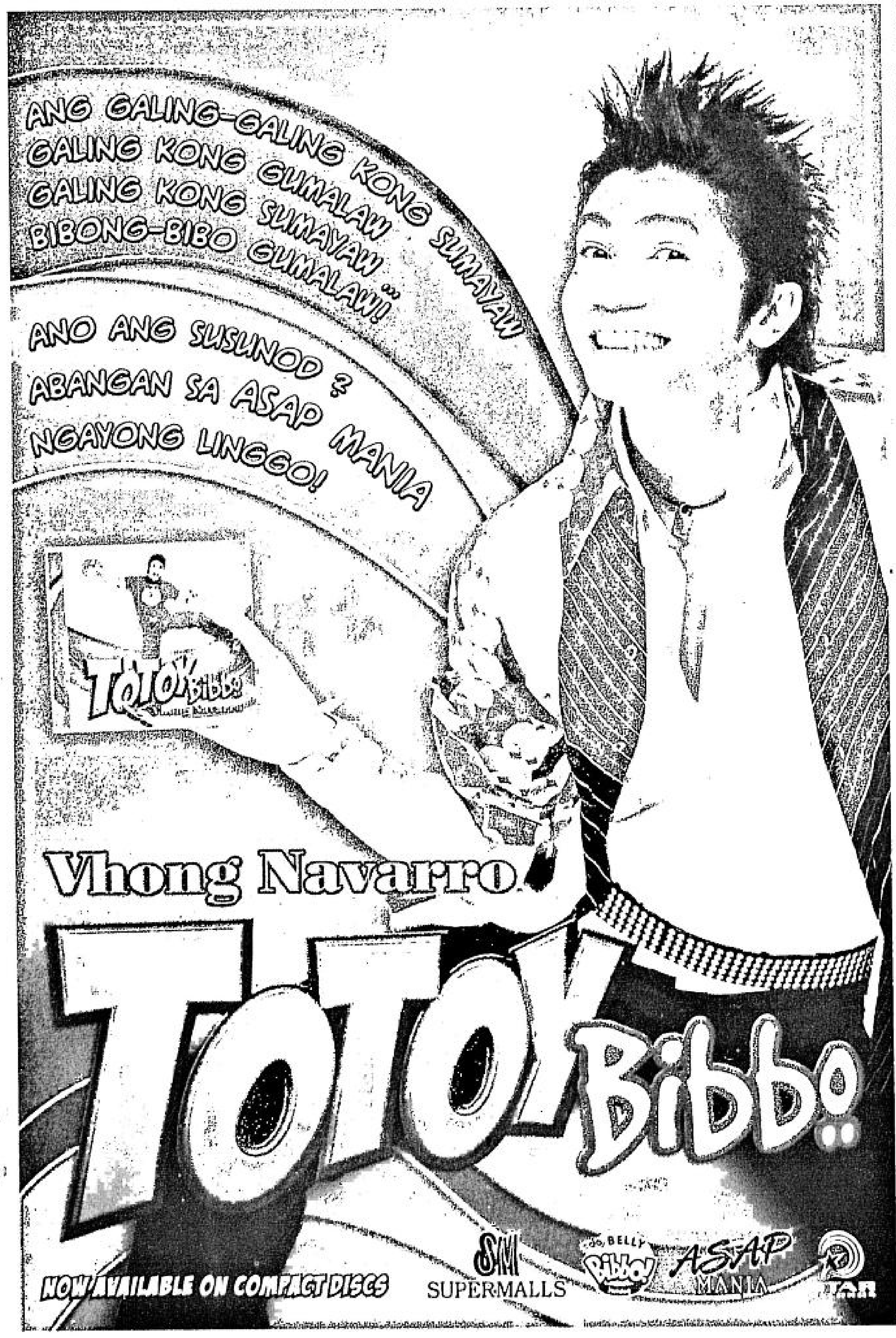
Michelle Ayalde

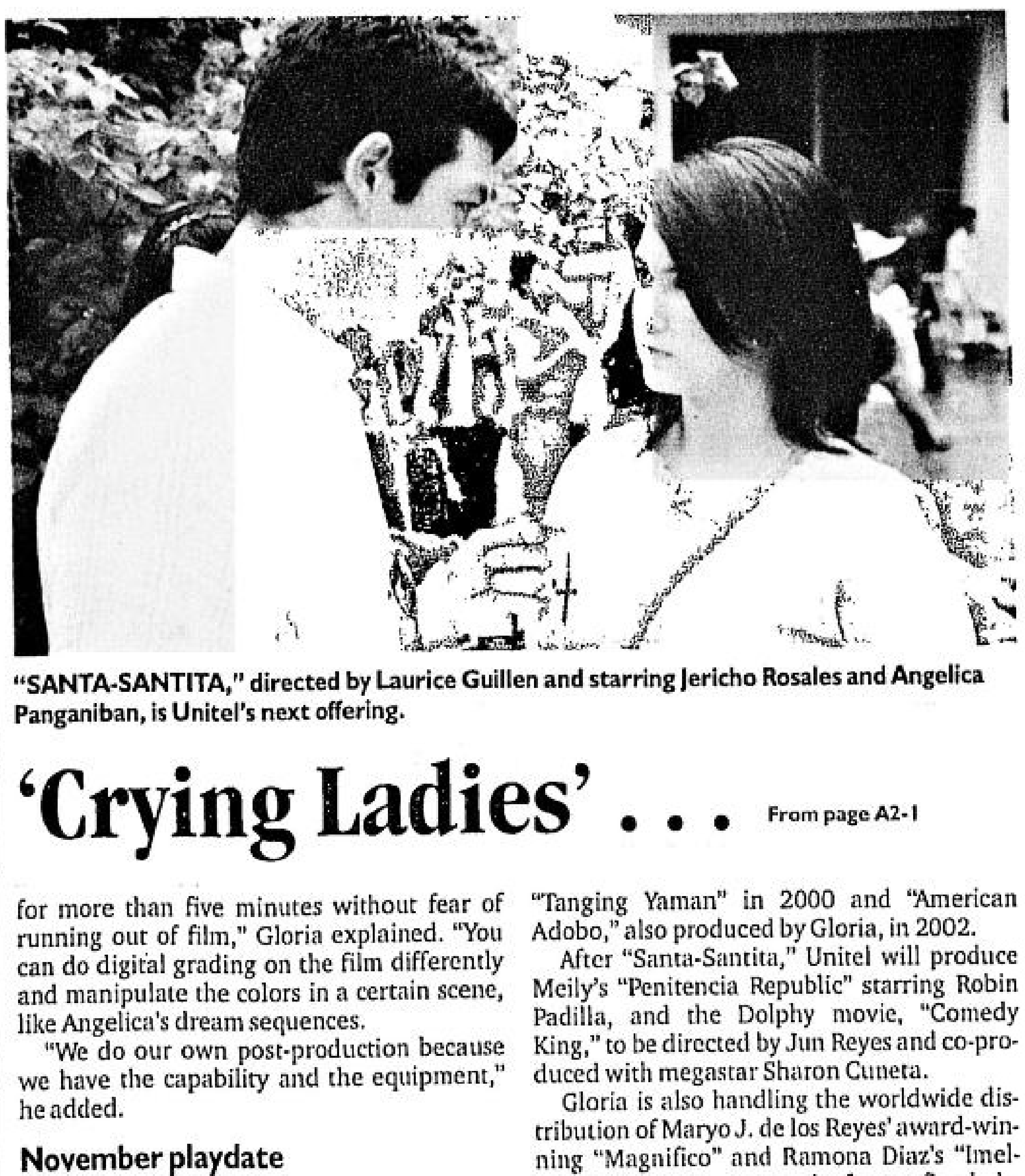
"ASAP Mania" regular **Michelle Ayalde's** self-titled debut album has eight tracks that showcase her wide vocal range. "Mamahalin Kita, Kahit Na," "Kay Tagal," "Ayoko Na Sana" and "Isang Ulit Man Lang" are the standout cuts. Michelle is nominated for Best Performance by a New Female Recording Artist in the 2004 Awit Awards, which will be handed out on Sept. 9.

'Eye of the Tiger'

ANIMAL Planet's month-long programming special, "Eye of the Tiger," premieres at 10 p.m. today, Sept. 5, with "The Temple of the Tigers."

The episode tells the remarkable story of 10 Thai monks who have taken on the task of protecting wild Bengal tigers by offering them a home within the walls of their temple. "The Temple of the Tigers" is the first Asian TV production that will premiere internationally in Asia-Pacific, India, Europe, Latin America and the Middle East.





"SANTA-SANTITA," directed by Laurice Guillen and starring Jericho Rosales and Angelica Panganiban, is Unitel's next offering.

'Crying Ladies' . . .

From page A2-1

for more than five minutes without fear of running out of film," Gloria explained. "You can do digital grading on the film differently and manipulate the colors in a certain scene, like Angelica's dream sequences.

"We do our own post-production because we have the capability and the equipment," he added.

November playdate

"Santa-Santita," which is now in the post-production stage, could have been one of the official entries in the 2004 MMFF in December. However, Gloria decided not to field any entries this year and to instead show the film on an earlier playdate in November.

"Santa-Santita" follows Guillen's critically acclaimed and award-winning films like "Tanging Yaman" in 2000 and "American Adobo," also produced by Gloria, in 2002.

After "Santa-Santita," Unitel will produce Meily's "Penitencia Republic" starring Robin Padilla, and the Dolphy movie, "Comedy King," to be directed by Jun Reyes and co-produced with megastar Sharon Cuneta.

Gloria is also handling the worldwide distribution of Maryo J. de los Reyes' award-winning "Magnifico" and Ramona Diaz's "Imelda," the documentary on the former first lady.

Gloria said "Imelda" grossed $300,000 (P16.5 million) in Manila alone. The documentary is set to be shown in Singapore next month.

It was also bought by theater art houses in Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxembourg, according to Gloria.

Richard Merk finds true love

By Joven S. Joya
Contributor

SHOW STOPPER

RICHARD Merk says he has found his one true love.

"It has given me a purpose in life and it makes the music in my heart play with much depth now," he says.

The prince of jazz is referring to his family, his wife Roni, and their 3-1/1-year-old daughter Manna.

Once hounded by rumors that grew darker in the telling and countless retelling, Richard admits that during the early years he had spent singing with bands, "I performed just to survive for one day. I really didn't care about what the next day would bring."

After marrying the former Roni Tapia in December 1999, he started singing a different tune. "I live to take care of my family," he says. "In my wife I've found my anchor. And the arrival of our daughter has made my life complete.

"I take care of Manna in the daytime when Roni does her corporate work (as Bank of P.I. vice president for corporate communications). I sing Manna to sleep and when I look at her face, I feel a fullness in my life. It's magic."

He doesn't regret having gone through the wild and wooly days of his youth. "It happened for a purpose," he says. "I cannot forgive myself if I let it happen now that I'm raising a family."

Be thankful, share

The singer speaks with hard-earned maturity when he says everyone is blessed. "If you feel you're not blessed now, you will be, tomorrow or in the next days, weeks, months or years," he says. "Wait. Have faith in God and your blessings will surely come your way." And when they finally do, he advises the recipient to learn to appreciate them. "Be thankful for them and let them grow so you may share them."

He says he's a living example of what he's saying. "Many believed I would not recover," he says. "I did, not fast, but I recovered." His wife, he says, makes sure he won't ever go astray again. The couple are now active leaders of All for Jesus Marriage Encounter, a sector of the Tuklasan Marriage Encounter Foundation of the Philippines which provides venues for married couples and families to "rediscover, renew, enhance and invigorate the depth of mutual commitment among families and married Christians based on an 'All for Jesus-centered' encounter.

Richard recalls he was wandering aimlessly when he accidentally bumped into Roni at Larry's Bar on Adriatico Street in Malate. She, a music buff, knew who he was but they were never introduced to each other. On that fateful day, they struck a conversation for the first time.

They eventually began dating and were finally married at the National Shrine of St. Michael and the Archangels in San Miguel, Manila.

Reception followed at the same place where they had their first conversation, at Larry's Bar.

Both the bride and the groom had no inkling that the cathedral's patron saint was already giving Richard a clue to the solution of a major puzzle in his life, his long, almost hopeless, search for his American father, James Merk.

The long search

Says Roni: "Richard told me that he had never met his father, so I committed myself to helping him find his dad. In early 1999, Richard decided to try to locate his father. We sent letters to all the listed James Merk in the US. We struck gold when we were already preparing for our wedding. Richard received a letter postmarked Cleveland, Ohio, USA, from a Kathleen Merk, who introduced herself as one of two children of the man Richard was looking for.

"Richard's first telephone conversation with Kathleen was high on emotions. Kathleen quickly sent Richard an album of pictures of their father and family in the US. In July 2000, we traveled to the US and finally met them."

The search ended at the grave of the elder Merk in Cleveland, Ohio. James Merk was 31 when he died of brain tumor on March 21, 1961.

"When we finally visited the grave of Richard's dad, there stood from across it a statue of St. Michael the Archangel, a replica of which also occupied the center of the altar of the cathedral where Richard and I were married," says Roni.

"James and Annie were both based in Okinawa," Roni narrates the love story of Richard's parents. "He was an announcer at the US Air Base and she was a singer at a jazz club. They had a special relationship, until James had to return to Cleveland and Annie to Manila. On several occasions, he pleaded with her (then pregnant with Richard) to join him in America. Annie's strict father refused to give his blessings.

"Richard never got the chance to meet his father. He grew up in a family that never seemed complete. Through 43 years, he lived in bewilderment, without an idea of what his father was like. The last that was heard from James was when he wrote Annie asking about little 'Ricky,' which was how he fondly called his son.

Four months after the tearful Merk family reunion, the couple received their "most precious gift from Above," as Roni puts it. Maria Manna was born Nov. 3, 2000.

Little shining person

Their music bar in Makati—Merk's Bar Bistro at Level 3, Greenbelt 3 in Ayala Center—is doing well. Richard's next creative project with his wife, a rest house at the Ayala Westgrove in Sta. Rosa, Laguna, is under construction and will be finished early next year.

And Manna is growing into a beautiful person. "I walk into our house and here is a little shining person who is glad to see me again and again," says the beaming father.

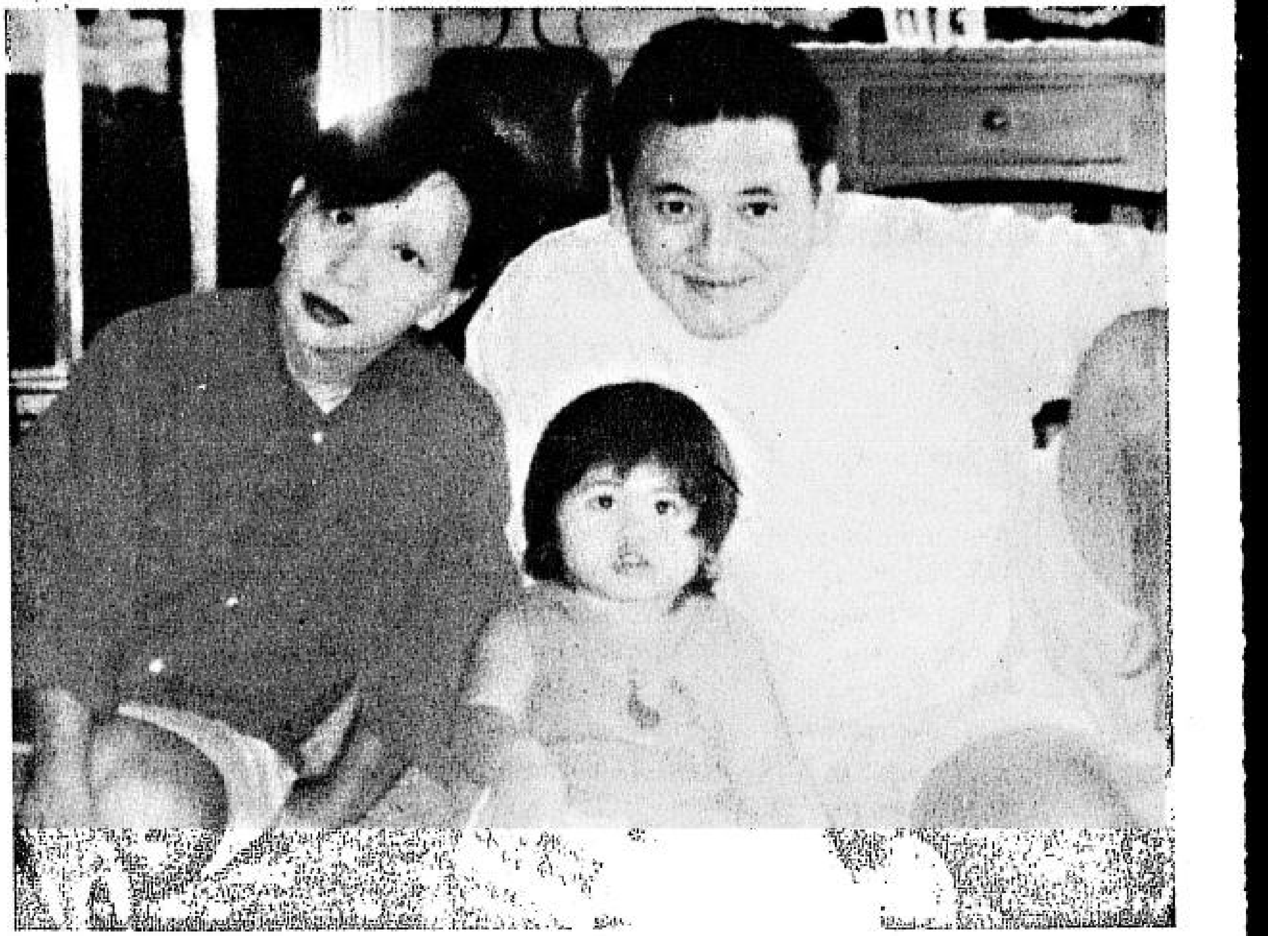
Richard, a Tawag ng Tanghalan champion in the '60s, inherited his passion for jazz not only from his mother, the great Annie Brazil who, at 70, is still wowing the crowds in a New York club, but also from his impresario of a stepfather, David Wolfe, who once took the entire family with him to Bangkok.

"We stayed in Bangkok for over three years, from 1968 to 1971," Richard recalls. "I drove for my stepfather. I would fetch his jazz artists from the airport, bring them to their hotels, rehearsals and performances. There was much waiting, so rather than bore myself, I listened to their music and actually liked it."

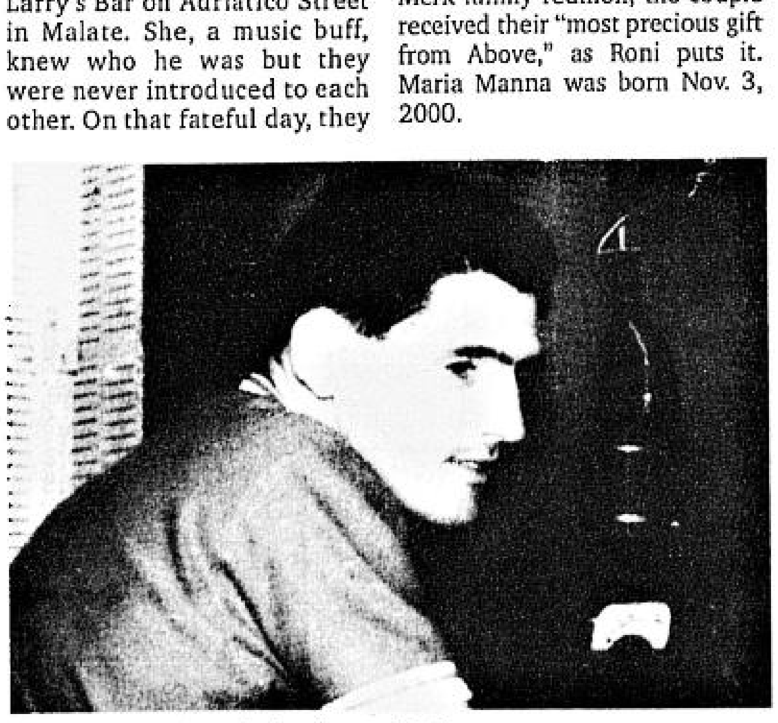
Music and movies

Richard got hooked on music as early as age 7 when he had already mastered "Autumn Leaves." He would later sing with various bands like Sangkatutak, Royal Flush, Sticky Band, Star Band, Blackbird Band, Take One Band, and Fourth

RICHARD/ A2-4



THE JAZZ singer with his wife Roni and their "little shining person," Manna



RICHARD'S father, the late James Merk...

and his half-siblings Kathleen and Michael in Ohio

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RULES:

1. Promo period is June 15 to November 11, 2004.
2. **A minimum of one (1) raffle entry is required to be eligible for the ₱ 250,000 Grand Prize. A minimum of two (2) raffle entries is required to be eligible for the ₱ 500,000 Grand Prize. A mimimum of four (4) raffle entries is required for the ₱ 1,000,000 Grand Prize.**
3. The MILO Event Draws will be held on July 23, July 30, August 6, August 13, August 20, August 27, September 3, September 10, September 17, and September 24, 2004. Entries sent from 12:00 AM to 11:59 PM of the covered period will be qualified for the MILO Event draw.

MILO Event Period	Date	Period Covered
1	Jul 23	Jun 15-Jul 22
2	Jul 30	Jul 23-Jul 29
3	Aug 6	Jul 30-Aug 5
4	Aug 13	Aug 6-Aug 12
5	Aug 20	Aug 13-Aug 19
6	Aug 27	Aug 20-Aug 26
7	Sep 3	Aug 27-Sep 2
8	Sep 10	Sep 3-Sep 9
9	Sep 17	Sep 10-Sep 16
10	Sep 24	Sep 17-Sep 23

4. Per MILO Event Draw, there will be 10 winners of MILO jackets and 3 winners of Adidas products. MILO Event winners will be announced during the MILO Events to be held two days after the draw.
5. MILO Event Draw winners will still qualify for the Grand Draw.
6. Grand Draw is on November 12, 2004. All entries sent from 12:00 AM of June 15 to 11:59 PM of November 11, 2004 will qualify for the Grand Draw.
7. During the Grand Draw, a winner can win only once. If his/her name gets drawn twice, he/she will get the prize with the higher value.
8. The electronic draws will be held at Information Gateway, Inc. at Unit 1401, West Tower, Tektite Bldg., Exchange Road, Ortigas Center, Pasig City in the presence of a BFAD representative.
9. All winners will be verified by the telecommunications company for valid charged/billed transactions. Only registered participants with properly billed transactions can win.
10. Winners will be informed through a call to their mobile phones and via registered mail.
11. Grand Prize winners can claim their prizes from Nestlé Philippines, Inc., Nestlé Center, 31 Plaza Drive, Rockwell Center, Makati City. Apart from 2 valid IDs with photo and signature, and the active cellphone with the winning SIM card, they should present the following:

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MILO 1K labels should be clean and fully intact. The codes should correspond to the codes sent to Information Gateway or they will be considered invalid.

12. A winner may send a representative to claim the prize provided the representative brings an authorization letter from the winner, the representative's valid ID with photo and signature, and all the requirements stated in the preceding section.
13. MILO Event Draw winners may claim their prizes at any of the 28th National MILO Marathon events. They should present the active cellphone with the winning SIM card, MILO 1K label, and the sticker with the winning code, plus two valid IDs with photo and signature. If they cannot come to a MILO Event, they may claim their prize at designated Nestlé offices (as indicated in the registered mail notification).
14. Winners need to sign an acknowledgment receipt/waiver to be provided by Nestlé before they get their prize.
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16. All employees of Nestlé Philippines, Inc., Globe Telecom, Innove Communications, Publicis-Manila, Smart Communications, Piltel, Information Gateway, packaging suppliers, advertising and promotion agencies, and relatives up to the 2nd degree of consanguinity and affinity are automatically disqualified from the promo.
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1 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
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3 ANACONDAS
4 PRINCESS DIARIES 2

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2 CINDERELLA STORY
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2 GARFIELD
3 BEAUTIFUL LIFE
4 CINDERELLA STORY

Visayas & Mindanao

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2 DEAD PEOPLE
3 CINDERELLA STORY
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5 THE VILLAGE
6 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
7. ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
8 ANACONDAS

SM CITY ILOILO (033) 3209422
1 GARFIELD
2 RESERVED
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7 RESERVED
8 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR

SM CITY DAVAO (082) 2976998
1 ANACONDAS
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3 ETERNAL SUNSHINE...
4 THE VILLAGE
5 ANACONDAS
6 CINDERELLA STORY

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO (088) 8592884
1 THE ALAMO
2 STEPFORD WIVES
3 GARFIELD
4 THE VILLAGE

THE PODIUM CINEMA

1
ANACONDAS
11:40 FS/12:10 MF/2:20/4:30/6:40/8:50/10:30 LFS/11:00 LMF/12:40 END

2
THE NOTEBOOK
11:40 FS/12:10 MF/2:50/5:30/8:10/10:30 LFS/10:50 LMF/12:55 END

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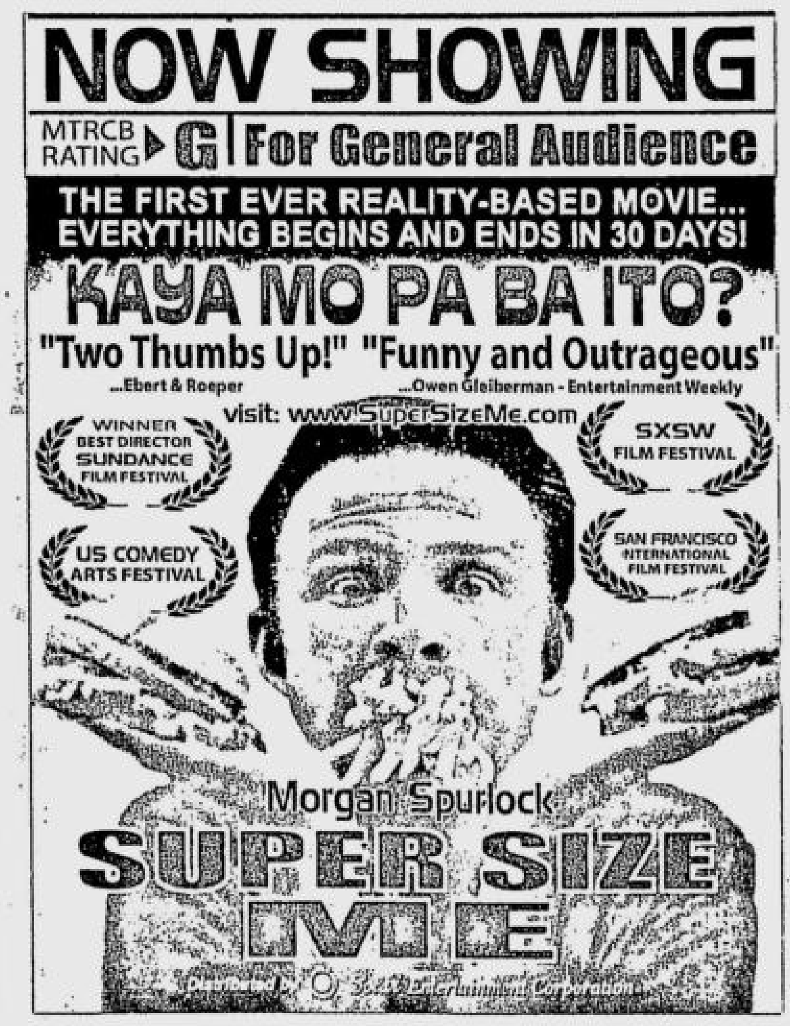
SEPTEMBER 5 • SUNDAY			
BELGIUM 2 SEA OF SILENCE PG-13	NETHERLANDS THE BLACK METEOR R-13	AUSTRIA ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE BRIDGE PG-13	PORTUGAL SWEET NIGHTMARE PG-13
2:00pm	4:30pm	7:00pm	9:30pm

Movies are subject to change without prior notice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2 (DOLBY) ANACONDAS PG - 13 / FS: 10:35 AM, 12:50PM, 3:05PM, 5:20PM, 7:35 PM, LMF: 9:50PM
3 (DOLBY) THE STEPFORD WIVES PG-13 / FS: 11:30AM, 1:30PM, 3:30PM, 5:30PM, 7:30PM, LMF: 9:30PM
4 (DOLBY) THE NOTEBOOK PG-13 / FS: 12:30PM, 3:15PM, 6:00PM, LMF: 8:45PM

PREMIERE
(DOLBY) CONNIE & CARLA PG-13

SUPER CINERAMA
isetann CINERAMA COMPLEX RECTO tel 733.4238
1. (DOLBY) ANACONDAS
2. THE NOTEBOOK
3. SUGAT
4. ALIEN VS, PREDATO
5. HAMOG

Gotesco Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 364.3781
1 RESERVE
2 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
3 SUGAT
4 (SDDS) HAMOG
5 THUNDERBIRDS
6 (DOLBY) ALIEN VS. PREDATO
7 (DTS) ANACONDAS
8 RESERVE
9 RESERVE

Masagana CINEMA
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3 HAMOG
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX) ANACONDAS
5 ALIEN VS, PREDATOR

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3 THE NOTEBOOK
4 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
5 (DOLBY) ANACONDAS
6 ALIEN VS, PREDATOR

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(Las Pinas) tel (047) 237.7007
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2 SUGAT

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72
1 (DDS) ANACONDAS
2 (SDDS) PRINCESS DIARIES-2
3 (DTS) ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
4 GOLD (DTS) CONNIE & CARLA
5 GOLD (DOLBY) ANACONDAS
6 GOLD (SDDS) ANACONDAS
7 GOLD (DOLBY) PRINCESS DIARIES-2
8 (ROAL) NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
9 (ROAL) THE NOTEBOOK
10 (ROAL) LAWS OF ATTRACTION

THE CENTER OF ENTERTAINMENT
Araneta Center
ALIMALL CINEPLEX
Tel. 911-3101 loc 8242 / 8281 / 8397
3 (Dolby) ANACONDAS
4 (SDDS) JANDARA
5 (DTS) ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
6 (Dolby) THE NOTEBOOK
7 (Dolby) PRINCESS DIARIES 2

MARKET! MARKET!
Mandaluyong tel 533.3851 / 533.3856
1 ANACONDAS
2 NOTEBOOK
3 HAMOG
4

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03
1 (DOLBY EX) SOON TO OPEN
2 SOON TO OPEN
3 (DTS EX) SOON TO OPEN
4 SOON TO OPEN

Cine Nepo
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.0121
1 PRINCESS DIARIES-2
2 ANACONDAS
3 (DOLBY) ANACONDAS
4 (DTS) ALONG CAME POLLY

Cine Nepo
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2 THE VILLAGE
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Centre Plaza Cinema
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3 (DOLBY) ANACONDAS
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Cinema 2000 Target Mall
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1 HAMOG
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3 (DTS) ANACONDAS

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1
2 (DTS) PRINCESS DIARIES-2
3 (DOLBY) ANACONDAS
4 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR

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Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Plaridel) tel (044) 7953320
1 ANACONDAS
2 PRINCESS DIARIES-2
3 (DOLBY) ALIEN VS. PREDATOR

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276
1 (SDDS) WILD BUTTERFLY
2 HAMOG
3 COLLATERAL
4 (DTS) ALIEN VS. PREDATOR

Lianas MovieCity
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2 HAMOG
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4 TEEN PLAY
5 PRINCESS DIARIES-2

Mega Center Mall
(Cabanatuan City) tel (044) 463.3283
1 HAMOG
2 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
3 (DTS) ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
4 (DOLBY) DEAD PEOPLE

Fiesta World Mall
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1 DEATH CURSE
2 THUNDERBIRD
3 KARELASYON
4 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR

Berma Cinema
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1 ANACONDAS
2 SUGAT

MOVIES / SCHEDULES / PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

'Meet and Greet' days with Blue

NICKELODEON Philippines, together with Anchor 1+, recently gave many children a memorable bonding time with "Blue," the animated puppy.

Blue was seen playing games and dancing with young fans that gathered at SM Megamall and SM North Edsa recently on "Meet and Greet" days,

Another series of "Meet and Greet" days was held at the Character Shop, Infant's Wear and Children's Wear sections of SM Megamall and SM North Edsa, in connection with the chain's promo.

For 3-year-old Nathaniel Gallegos, grand prize winner of the Nickelodeon-Anchor 1+ raffle promo, it was "Meet-greet-party-play-and get-enchanted Day." The blue paw marks brought him, his family and friends on a VIP tour of the Enchanted Kingdom.

The bonding reeled off with a free ride from Manila via Blue's Clues coaster.

Kids are first, especially with Blue who gave all Nick fans, both the young ones and the young once, a true-blue triple treat they will always remember.

Richard Merk...

From page A2-3

Congregation. He represented the Philippines in international music competitions such as the Singaporean Jazz Festival with the Sticky Band and the Asean Festival in Thailand.

He also recorded the theme song of Singapore's 25th independence anniversary.

At 10, Richard appeared in his first movie in 1965, "Mga Espada ng Rubitanya" for Sampaguita Pictures, with the late Vic Vargas and the studio's contract stars. He played the young Eddie Gutierrez in "Tanikalang Dugo," another Sampaguita starrer, and went on to do more movies with Fernando Poe Jr., Dolphy and Charito Solis. Altogether until his adulthood, he was in more than 20 movies.

He has recorded albums, performed in stage plays, live concerts, movies and television and in shows in London, Germany, Greece, Thailand, Singapore, Yemen, Jordan, US and Beirut. He is also the voice behind many commercial jingles for San Miguel Beer, Pepsi, Mountain Dew, BPI Express Teller, Juicy Fruit Gum, Levi's, Nestle, and Colgate.

New label

He is set to launch a new record label under Trademerk Concepts Inc. Named after his daughter, the label is called Manna Records and will release his mom Annie Brazil's jazz album.

When the Merks started their bar bistro, Richard's fellow artists turned out in full support. As he likes to say at every opportunity, Richard gives back to these artist-friends who came to his rescue when he needed them most.

The Merks always have work for their singer-friends in their well-patronized bar Mondays through Saturdays. Every Wednesday, Merk & Friends are the featured artists.

When host and singer Eddie Mercado suffered a stroke last May, Richard came to the rescue with a benefit show. He had done the same for the late Lito Molina and several foundations and causes like Hope for the World through Toti Fuentes, Verlanie Foundation through International School. He also staged Menchu Apostol's show and guitar auction for children's education.

Manila gives film festival producers ₱1M each

By Tarra V. Quismundo

SHORTLY after announcing its belt-tightening measures, the Manila city government on Friday "sacrificed" P7.15 million in cash incentives for screenwriters and producers who took part in the Manila Film Festival last June.

"We need the money but we want to help film producers and scriptwriters," said Mayor Lito Atienza, addressing the recipients of the cash incentives.

"This is a sacrifice for us to help you."

In a ceremony at the Manila City Hall yesterday morning, Atienza gave the producer of each film festival entry P1 million. The recipients were Regal Films, which fielded "Sabel" in the festival; Magsaysay Films, "Anak Ka ng Tatay Mo"; Angora Films, "Naglalayag"; Rocketts Production, "Mano Mano 3"; Star Cinema, "Volta"; and Viva Films, "Kulimlim."

"Naglalayag" received an additional P500,000 for being recognized as the festival's best picture, and another P50,000 for having the best float during the film festival parade.

The screenwriters of the participating movies received P100,000 each.

"We want to really help the local film industry," said Atienza after the distribution of checks. "We see films as an effective means of promoting the city, promoting values."

Atienza called on the producers to make the city a setting of their films, even as he promised to help them further by doing away with shooting fees within the city.

"New York and Rome became known for films shot in these cities," he pointed out. "That's why I believe making Manila a film setting is a big booster."

He earlier announced an indefinite moratorium on hiring city personnel and procuring vehicles to save on the city's budget.

Pop-R&B teener in Streetscape show

TEENAGE pop and R&B singer Mikaela Hahn will perform in a special show at the Shangri-La Plaza's Streetscape on Friday, Sept. 10, at 8 p.m.

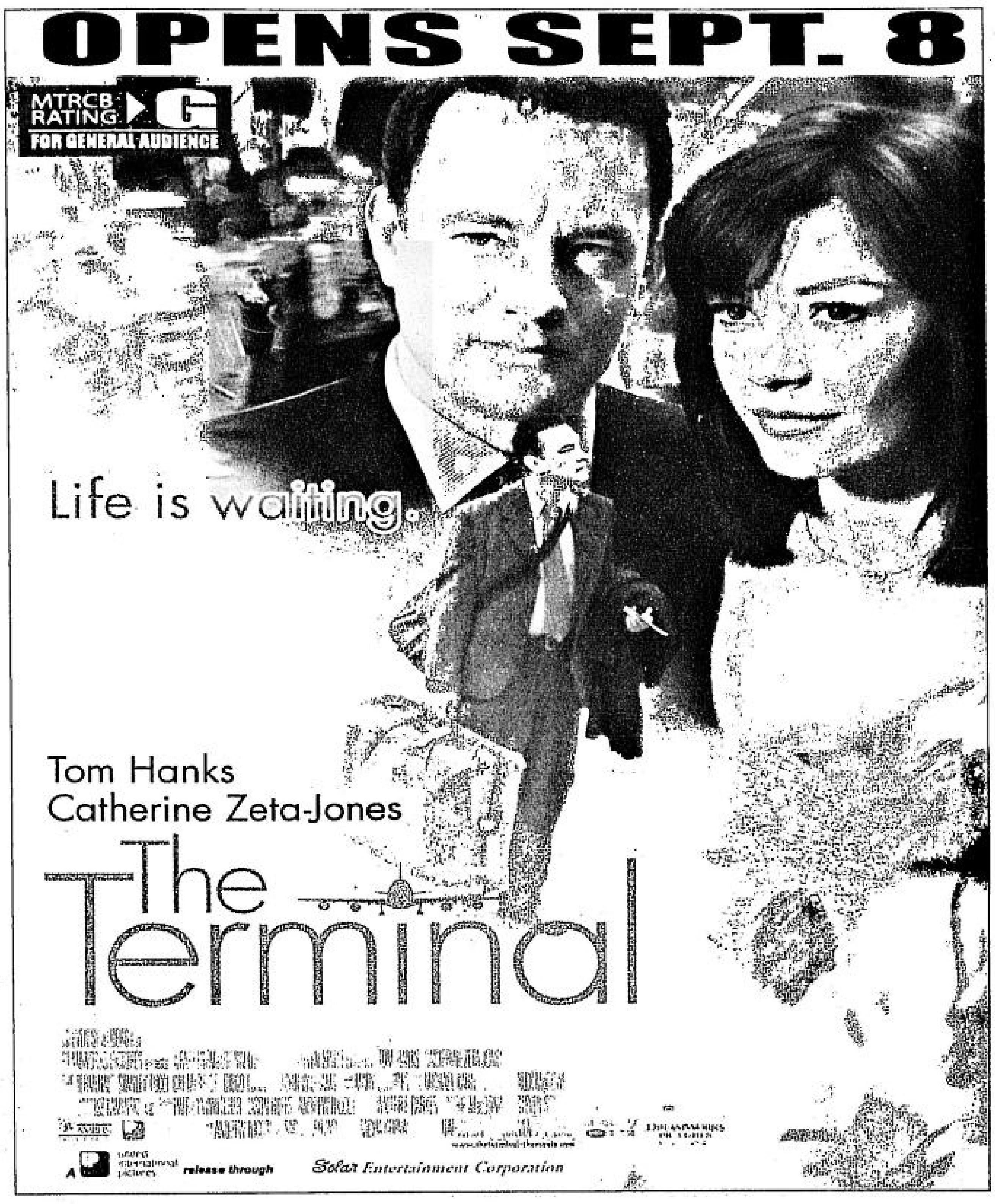
The 15-year-old singing prodigy, a high school sophomore at St. Paul College in Pasig City, has trained in various establishments including the University of the Philippines College of Music, the Ryan Cayabyab School of Music and the Greenhills Music Studio, among others.

From performances for friends and family at debuts and weddings, Mikaela has moved on to highly visible performances for the Friends of the CCP at the Cultural Center of the Philippines and Peninsula Hotel, at Dish at the ABS-CBN complex in Quezon City, and at Streetscape earlier this year.

Hahn's performance will be followed by a show featuring the Great Divide band at 9:30 p.m.

For more information, call customer relations at 6337851.

Shangri-La Plaza is DTI/PRA's "Best Shopping Center of the Year."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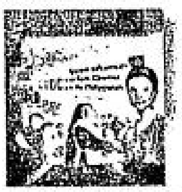
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by Stijn Coninx

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ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE BRIDGE
(AUSTRIA)
by Hu Mei

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by Guido Pieters

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(PORTUGAL)
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Rina Jimenez David - Phil. Daily Inquirer, Aug. 31,2004

ASIA'S EROTIC PHENOMENON!
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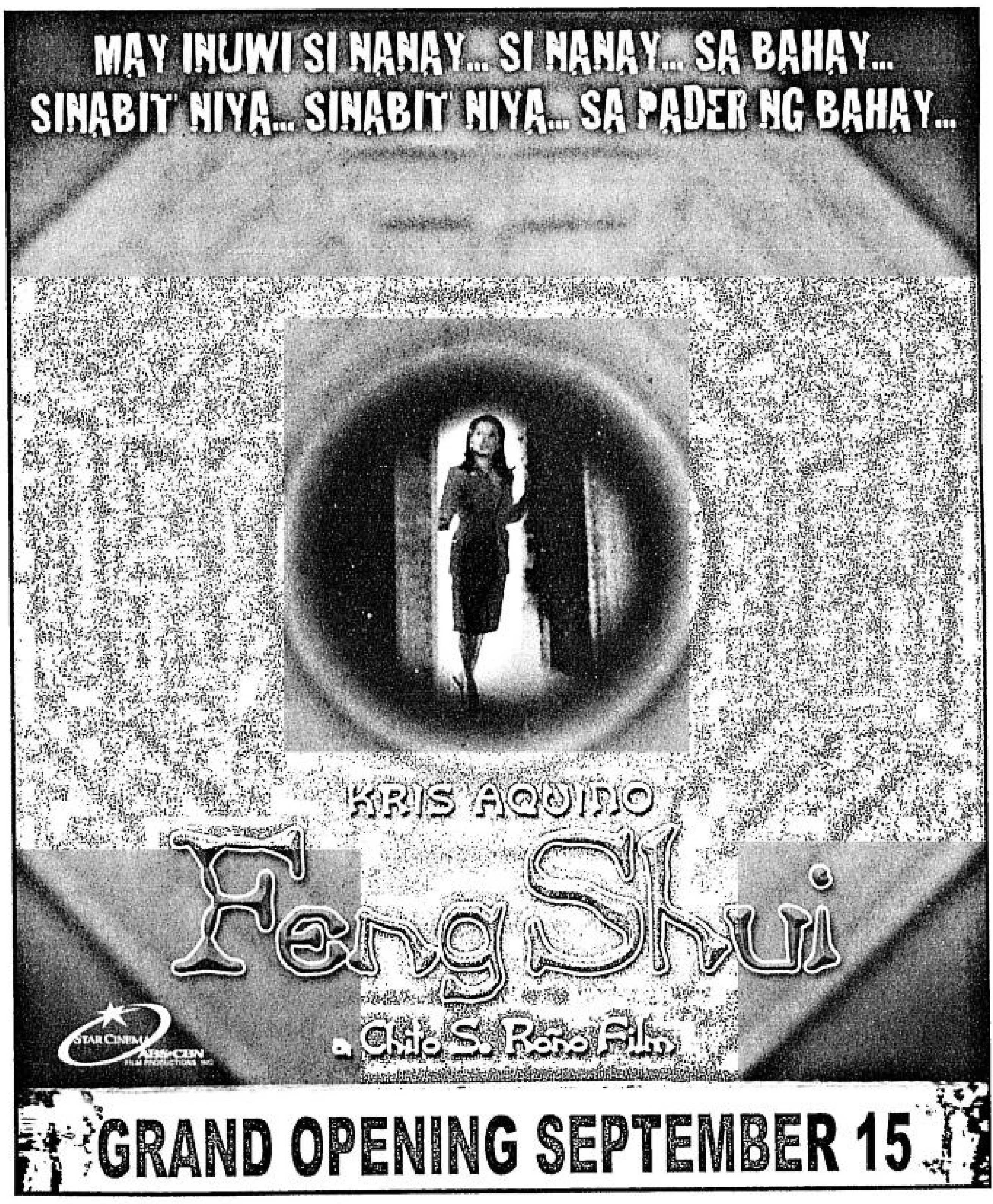
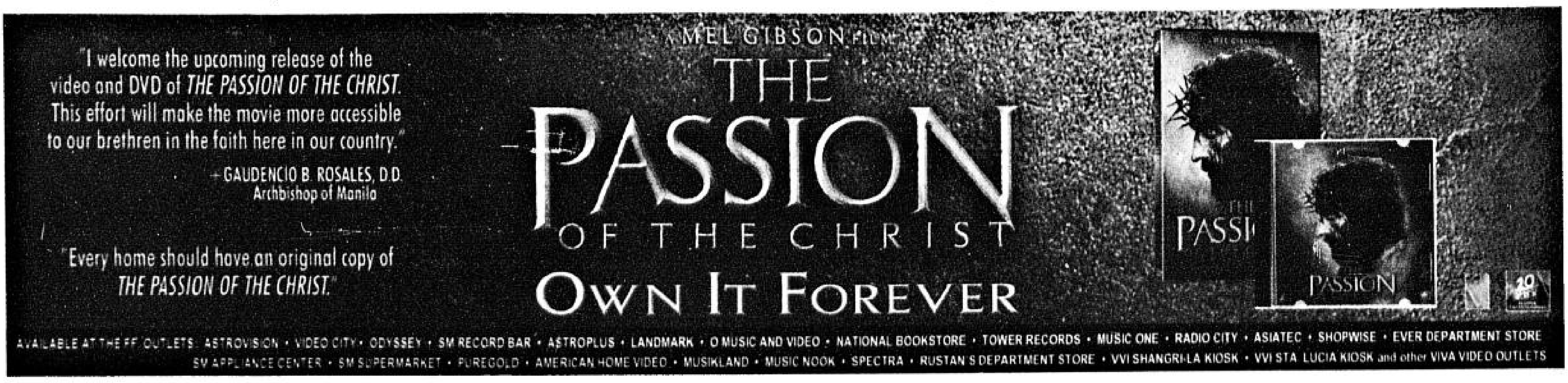
Released through Solar Entertainment Corporation


MAY INUWI SI NANAY... SI NANAY... SA BAHAY...
SINABIT NIYA... SINABIT NIYA... SA PADER NG BAHAY...
KRIS AQUINO
Feng Shui
Star Cinema ABS-CBN Film Productions Inc.
a Chito S. Roño Film
GRAND OPENING SEPTEMBER 15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2 THE NOTEBOOK 11:00, 1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 10:00
3 CONNIE AND CARLA 10:20, 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00
4 SUPER SIZE ME 10:45, 1:00, 3:15, 5:30, 7:45, 10:00
5 ANACONDAS 10:20, 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00
6 THE PRINCESS DIARIES 2 11:20, 2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10.00
7 JANDARA 12:40, 3.00, 5.20, 7:40, 10:00
8 LAWS OF ATTRACTION 12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8.00, 10:00
9 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00
10 THE VILLAGE 12:40, 3.00, 5:20, 7:40, 10.00

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ERMITA 536-7809 to 12

1 ANACONDAS 10:40, 12:50, 3:00, 5:10, 7:20, 9:40
2 SUPER SIZE ME 10:10, 12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6 00, 8.00, 9.50
3 THE PRINCESS DIARIES 2 11:30, 2 00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:40
4 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR 10:10, 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50
5 CONNIE AND CARLA 10:20, 12:05, 2.00, 3.55, 5:50, 7:45, 9:40
6 LAWS OF ATTRACTION 11:50, 1.50, 3:50, 5:50, 7:50, 9:50
7 THE NOTEBOOK 11:05, 1:40, 4:15, 6:50, 9:40

METRO EAST 682-8193/99 / 682-8280

1 LAWS OF ATTRACTION 10:50, 12:50, 2:50, 4:50, 6:50, 9:00
2 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR 10:50, 12:50, 2:50, 4:50, 6:50, 9:00
3 THE PRINCESS DIARIES 2 10:05, 12.20, 2.40, 5.00, 7:20, 9:40
4 ANACONDAS 12:20, 2.45, 5.10, 7.35, 10.00
5 ANACONDAS 10:25, 12 50, 3.15, 5 40, 8 05, 10:30
6 THE VILLAGE 10.50, 12:50, 2.50, 4:50, 6:50, 9:00
7 THE NOTEBOOK 12:30, 3.10, 5 50, 9 00
8 JANDARA 11:30, 1:55, 4:20, 6:45, 9.10

NOVALICHES / FAIRVIEW 935-3229 / 31

1 ANACONDAS 11:20, 1:30, 3:40, 5:50, 8:00
2 THE PRINCESS DIARIES 2 11:00, 1:25, 3:50, 6:15, 8:40
3 THE STEPFORD WIVES 11:00, 12:55, 2:50, 4:45, 6:40, 8:35
4 NOW THAT I HAVE YOU 11:30, 1:45, 4.00, 6.15, 8.30
5 ANACONDAS 10:30, 12:35, 2.40, 4:45, 6:50, 8 55
6 LAWS OF ATTRACTION 11:00, 12:55, 2:50, 4:45, 6:40, 8:35
7 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR 10.15, 12.45, 3.15, 5.45, 8.30
8 THE VILLAGE 11:30, 1:45, 4:00, 6 15, 8:30

Citisquare MALABON 288-0985/2575
1 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
2 THE PRINCESS DIARIES 2
3 ANACONDAS
4 DECOYS

CAINTA 240-4661
1 THE PRINCESS DIARIES 2
2 JANDARA
3 ANACONDAS
4 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR

STA. ROSA (049)837-0907
1 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
2 THE PRINCESS DIARIES 2
3 HAMOG
4 DEAD PEOPLE
5 ANACONDAS

LIPA 757-3664 / 312-5870
1 THUNDERBIRDS
2 DEATH CURSE
3 ETERNAL SUNSHINE
4 KARELASYON
5 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR

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1 THE PRINCESS DIARIES 2
2 HAMOG
3 ANACONDAS
4 A CINDERELLA STORY
5 THE STEPFORD WIVES

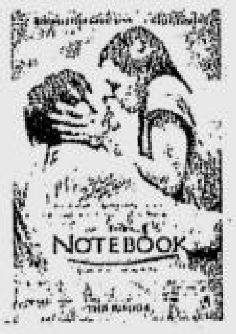
STARMILLS San Fernando, Pampanga 875-1927 / 961-5270
1 ETERNAL SUNSHINE
2 HAMOG
3 PRINCESS DIARIES 2
4 THE STEPFORD WIVES
5 ANACONDAS
6 ANACONDAS

IMUS 471-8188 / 875-5858
1 ANACONDAS
2 ANACONDAS
3 HAMOG
4 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
5 THE PRINCESS DIARIES 2
6 THUNDERBIRDS

BACOLOD 441-0458/59
1 A CINDERELLA STORY
2 THE VILLAGE
3 THE PRINCE AND ME
4 GARFIELD
5 SYLVIA
6 BANGKOK HAUNTED 2

ILOILO 336-8070/78
1 A CINDERELLA STORY
2 SYLVIA
3 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
4 THE VILLAGE
5 MAKAMUNDO
6 THUNDERBIRDS

KAYA MO BA 'TO?
SUPER SIZE ME



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THX 1 ANACONDAS
2 THE NOTEBOOK
3 CONNIE & CARLA
4 LAWS OF ATTRACTION
5 PRINCESS DIARIES 2

G1 GLORIETTA 1
1 ANACONDAS
2 ALIEN VS. PREDATOR
3 THE NOTEBOOK
4 PRINCESS DIARIES 2

G4 GLORIETTA 4
1 PRINCESS DIARIES 2
2 LAWS OF ATTRACTION
GUARANTEED SEATS THX 3 ANACONDAS 12 30, 2 40, 4 50, 7 00, 9 10, 11 20
4 THE STEPFORD WIVES
5 ANACONDAS
6 THE NOTEBOOK
7 CONNIE & CARLA

GB1 GREENBELT 1
1 SUPER SIZE ME 12 20, 2 30, 4 40, 6 50, 9 00
2 ANACONDAS 12 10, 2:15, 4 25, 6 40, 8 55

GB3 GREENBELT 3
GUARANTEED SEATS THX 1 ANACONDAS 1 10, 3 20, 5 30, 7 40, 9 50, 12 00
GUARANTEED SEATS THX 2 THE NOTEBOOK 2 00, 4 30, 7 00, 9 30, 12 00
GUARANTEED SEATS 3 CONNIE & CARLA 1 05, 3 10, 5 15, 7 20, 9 25, 11 30
GUARANTEED SEATS 4 PRINCESS DIARIES 2 2 00, 4 20, 6 20, 9 20, 11 20
GUARANTEED SEATS 5 LAWS OF ATTRACTION 1 30, 3 30, 5 30, 7 30, 9 30, 11 30

ACC AYALA CENTER CEBU
1 ANACONDAS
2 A CINDERELLA STORY
3 THE STEPFORD WIVES
4 ETERNAL SUNSHINE
5 THE VILLAGE

At the Activity Center

GLORIETTA	ALABANG TOWN CENTER	AYALA CENTER CEBU
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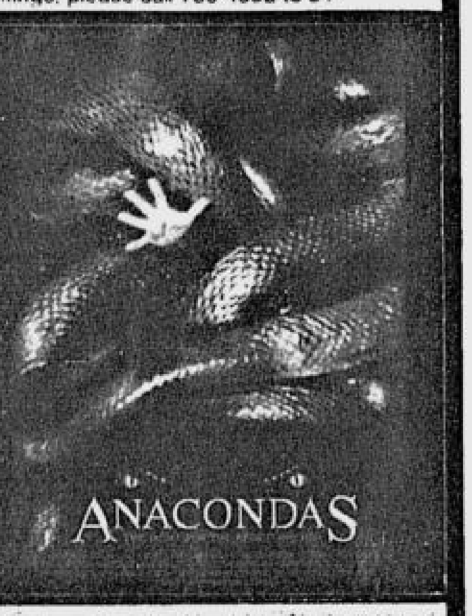
MTRCB Rating: Parental Guidance 13



jennifer garner

For some, 13 feels like it was yesterday.

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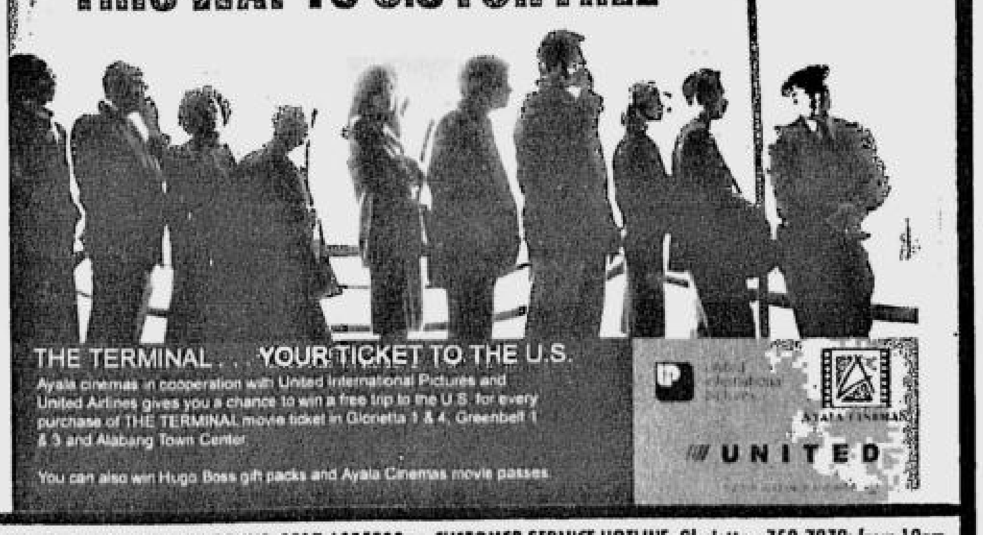

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Reserve your seats by texting SURESEATS GB3 or SURESEATS G4 to 2333 (Globe) or 211 (Smart).
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ANDREA del Rosario

Hotbabes on 'Hotstuff' video

THE HOTBABES have shown that they could sizzle on screen. They've demonstrated that they've got pipes good enough to cut two CDs, "Bulaklak" and "Kikay." They showed their wares on the fashion ramp. And they showed it all in volumes 1 and 2 of Hotstuff magazine.

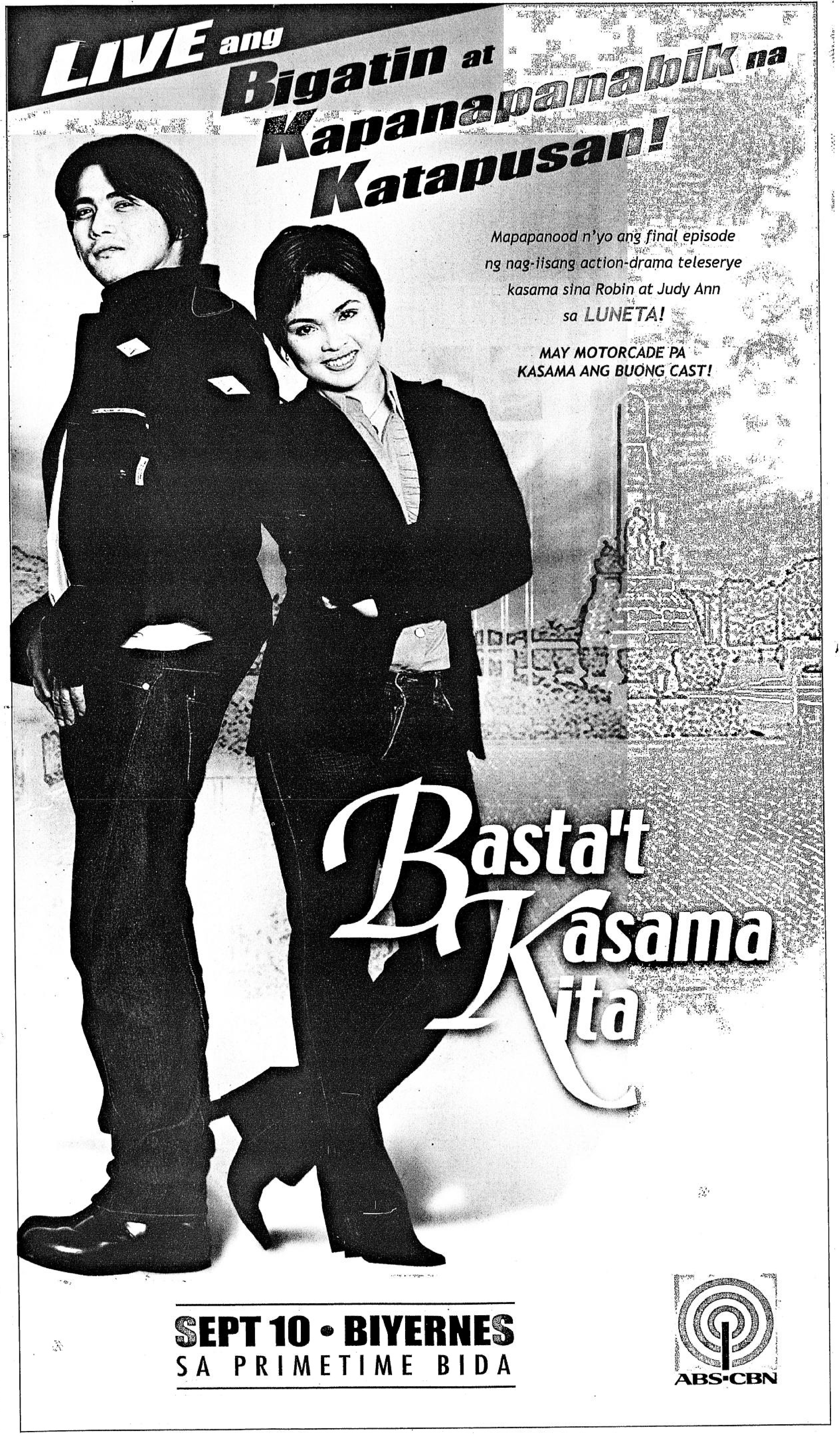
Now, the "Hotstuff" video makes you privy to some shots that were not in the magazines. And if you still can't get enough, the video also features choice clips from the movies of the Babes. Playing host to Katya, Andrea, Gwen, Jen, Myles, Kristine, Ella V., Hazel and the rest is TV funny man Ogie "The Sexual Fantasy Guru" Diaz.

"Hotstuff the Video," released by Viva Video, is available on VCD for P199 and DVD for P299.

KATYA Santos

AYLA

Ayla de Joya, one of the promising students of Center for Pop Music Philippines (CPMP), recently performed in a dinner concert at the Officers Clubhouse in Fort Bonifacio, Makati. CPMP produced the concert titled "Ayla Emerged," which coincided with Ayla's 18th birthday. Last year, Ayla performed in the "Voices and Faces" concert with other students of Center for Pop Music. The daughter of lawyer Alberto de Joya and Loida Bautista is a freshman at the Miriam College.



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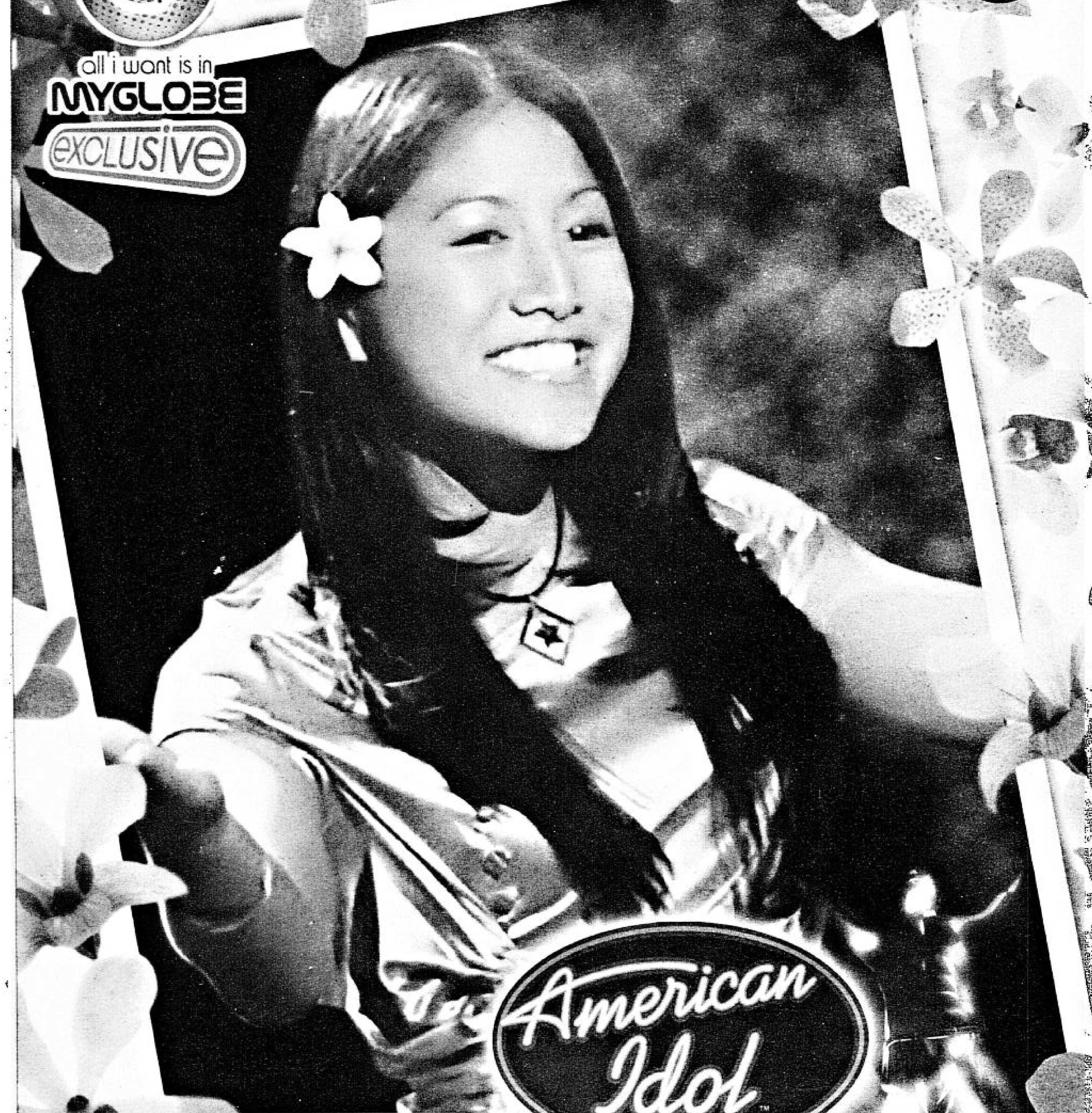

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TC latoyaface

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TONES

SONG TITLE	ARTIST	KEYWORD
It's A Miracle	Barry Manilow	itsamiracle
Get On Your Feet	Gloria Estefan	getonurfeet
For Once In My Life	Spiral Staircase	foronce
All By Myself	Celine Dion	bymyself
Greatest Love Of All	Whitney Houston	greatestlove
I Can Love You Like That	All4One	icanlove
Lean On Me	Club Noveau	leanonme
Rhythm is Gonna Get You	Gloria Estefan	rhythm
One Last Cry	Brian McKnight	onelastcry
A Whole New World	Peabo Bryson & Celine Dion	newworld
My Girl	The Temptations	mygirl
Saving All My Love For You	Whitney Houston	savingmylove
Because You Loved Me	Celine Dion	ulovedme

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John S: My Girl	IA223
La Toya: Rhythm Is Gonna Get You	IA224

TITLE	KEYWORD
All By Myself Audition	IA169
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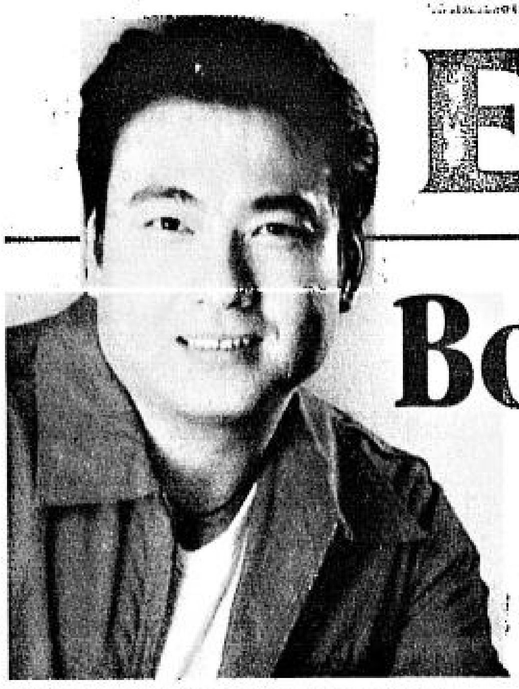
Bong: Ban on R-18 films can kill industry


REVILLA. "R-18 films are not necessarily pornographic"

THE DECISION of the SM theater chain not to show "R" or "R-18" movies could destroy the local movie industry, according to Sen. Ramon "Bong" Revilla Jr., who is also a movie actor.

Revilla said in a statement that given the current slump in the Philippine film industry, "a sweeping ban on all R-18 films" by one of the country's largest networks of cinemas—if not the largest—would finally end the life of the country's dying film industry.

Revilla, who heads the Senate committee on mass media, said, "We welcome SM management's move to protect young audiences from anything inappropriate they see on a movie screen. But a sweeping ban of all R-18 films would suck the life out of the local movie industry."

The young first-time senator added that even if the ban is restricted only to movies with sexual plot/content, SM management should think twice before implementing its decision. "We have the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board (MTRCB) to censor our movies," he said. "Let them do their job, but we urge them to do so with fairness."

In a letter to SM president Teresita Sy, Revilla pointed out that "I am against pornography in the film industry."

"But a film classified as R-18 is not necessarily a pornographic film," he said in the letter to Sy. "There are movies which are drama and action in orientation but are nonetheless classified as R-18."

Revilla, who was chair of the Video Regulatory Board before he was elected senator, said banning these movies from the SM theaters "will encourage piracy of locally produced films."

In another statement, Revilla lauded the Bureau of Immigration (BI) for its decision to tighten the screening of foreign actors and movie producers intending to shoot in the Philippines.

The BI move can prevent the displacement of Filipino actors and producers due to foreign competition. "This is a development that our local film industry badly needs," Revilla said.

Last week, the BI and the Film Academy of the Philippines (FAP) forged an agreement, where the FAP will help the BI screen foreign film producers applying for permits to shoot movies in the country.

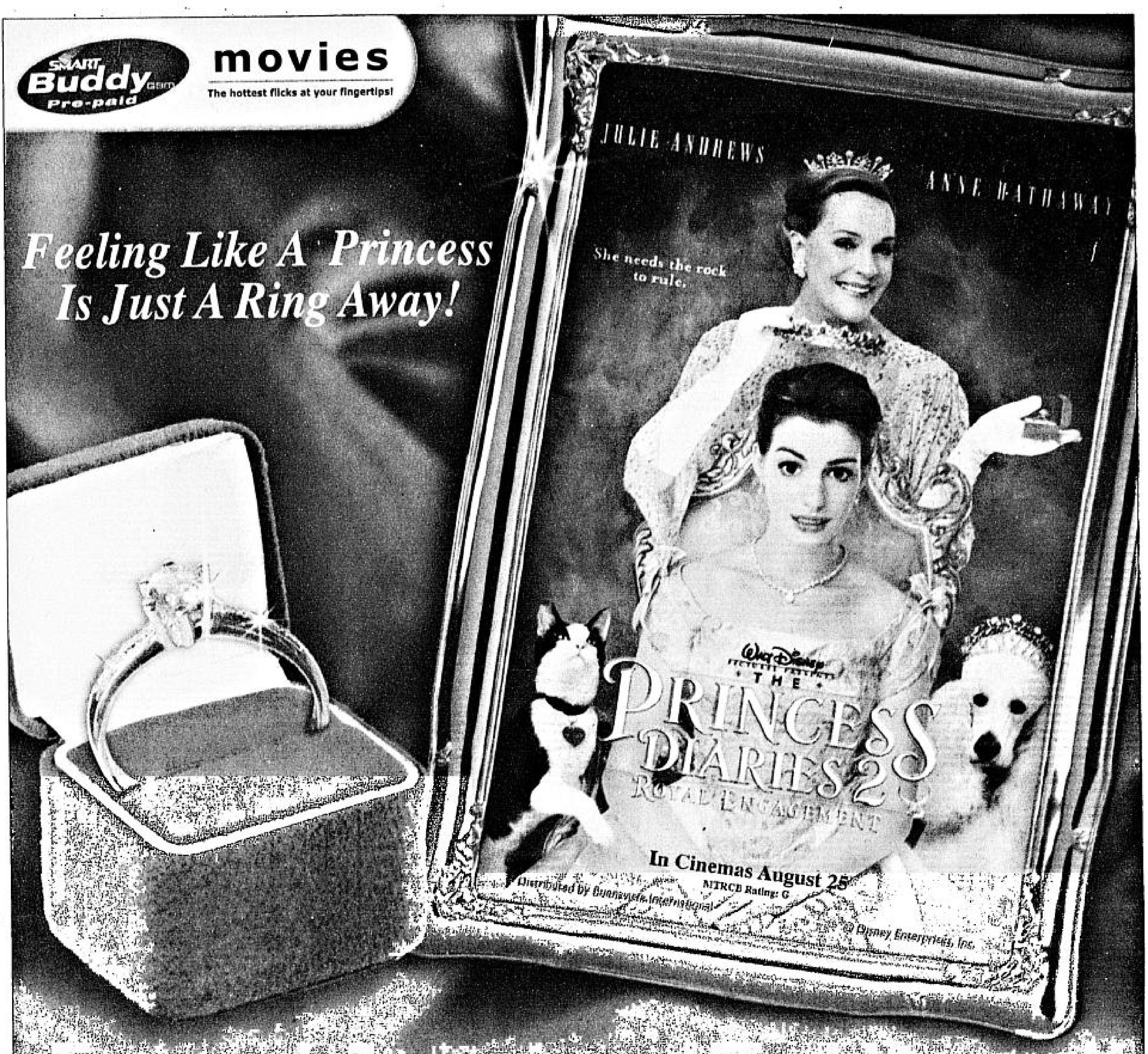
According to the agreement, foreign producers will make an equity payment to the actors' guild equivalent to the performance rates of the total number of local film artists and workers that could be displaced as a result of the making of the foreign film here.

Revilla said he is pushing for legislation that would revitalize the movie industry, including protecting intellectual property rights, penalizing film and music piracy, and regulating the operation of cable television.

DID YOU KNOW...

Anna Marin, a movie actress from the '80s, was seen dining with a son at Cibo at the Power Plant Mall at Rockwell in Makati City last Wednesday afternoon. Anna, who was one of the lead stars of **Marilou Diaz-Abaya's** classic film "Moral" has a love child by action king and former presidential candidate **Fernando Poe Jr.** During the campaign for the May 10 elections, FPJ did not deny that Anna's elder son, Ron-an, a 22-year-old student at De La Salle University, is his.

MORE SHOW BIZ STORIES, Section A2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TONES

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I Decide	Lindsay Lohan	Idecide
I Always Get What I Want	Avril Lavigne	Alwayget
Trouble	Pink	Trouble
Fun In The Sun	Steve Harwell	Funindasun
Let's Bounce	Christy Carlson Romano	Letsbounce
Fools	Rachel Steven	Fools
A Whole New World		Neworld
Reflections		Reflections
Colors Of The Wind		Colorwind
Beauty And The Beast		Beautynbeast
Go The Distance		Godistance
Can You Feel The Love Tonight		Feeldlov2Nyt
Circle Of Life		Circlelife
Part Of Your World		Parturworld
You'll Be In My Heart		Bmyheart
A Girl Worth Fighting For		Girlfyt

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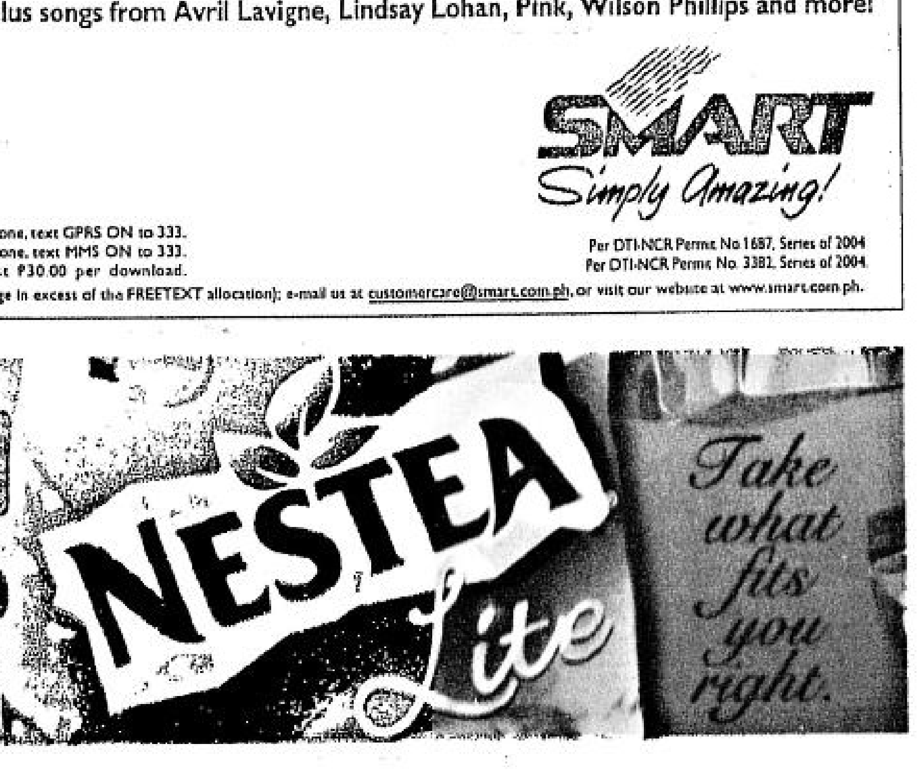

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1	PRINCESS DIARIES 2	12:00, 2:30, 5:00 7:30, 10:20	GP
2	CONNIE AND CARLA	11:20, 1:40, 4:00, 6:20 8:40, 11:00	PG-13
3	ANACONDAS	11:35, 1:50, 4:05 6:20, 8:35, 11:00	PG-13
4	THE NOTEBOOK	12:05, 2:35, 5:05 7:35, 10:05	PG-13

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CINEMA 1	PRINCESS DIARIES - 2	11:00, 1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 10:00	GP
CINEMA 2	ANACONDAS	10:50, 1:05, 3:20, 5:35, 7:50, 10:10	PG13

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CONNIE AND CARLA PG13 12:00,2:00,4:00, 6:00,8:00,10:00	PRINCESS DIARIES 2 GP 11:45,2:15,4:45,7:15,9:40	THE NOTEBOOK PG-13 12:10,2:40,5:10,7:40,10:10
LAWS OF ATTRACTION PG13 11:50,1:50,3:50, 5:50,7:50,9:50	SUPER SIZE ME GP 1:25,3:35,5:45,7:55,10:05	ANACONDAS PG13 1:20,3:35,5:50,8:05,10:20

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Special Sneak Preview of "13 going On 30" Sept. 6-7

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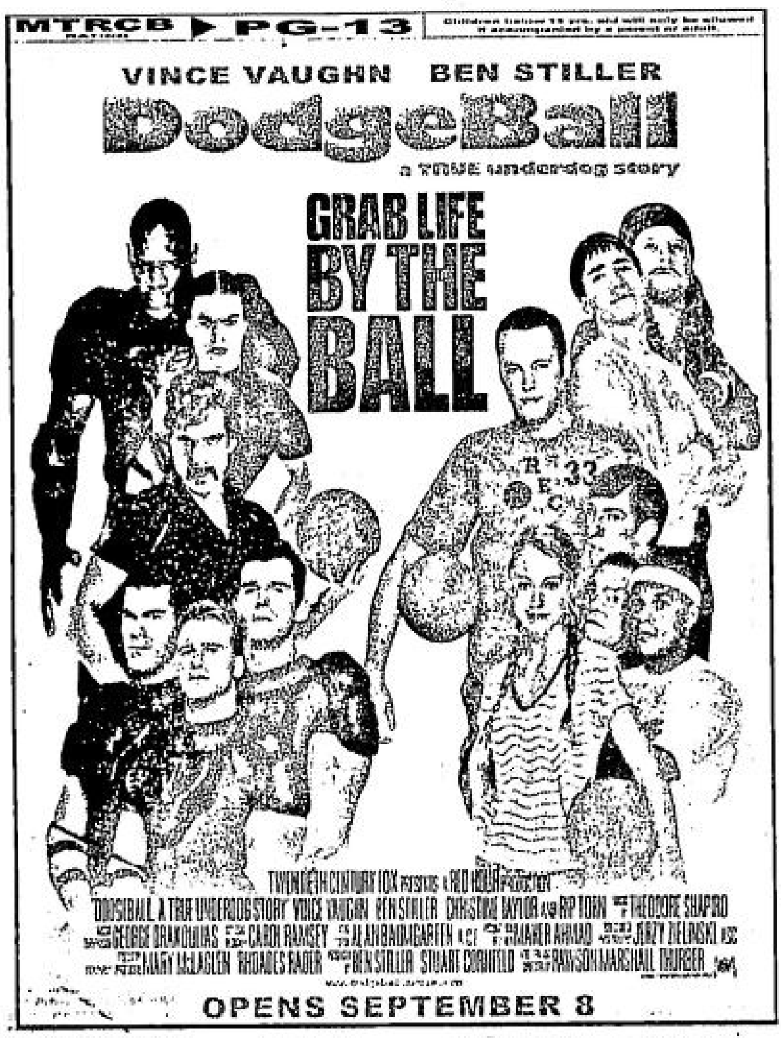
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DodgeBall
a TRUE underdog story
GRAB LIFE BY THE BALL
TWENTIETH CENTURY FOX PRESENTS A RED HOUR PRODUCTION
"DODGEBALL: A TRUE UNDERDOG STORY" VINCE VAUGHN BEN STILLER CHRISTINE TAYLOR and RIP TORN

OPENS SEPTEMBER 8

GODSEND

"GHOST STORY HAS A COOL, OLD-FASHIONED CHILL IN THE TRADITION OF THE SIX SENSE AND THE RING."

CAMERON BRIGHT as ADAM in GODSEND

Godsend is a subtle, insidiously haunting thriller with here-and-now questions and a timeless sense of dread and fear. It hinges on an all-too-plausible idea: **Jessie** and **Paul Duncan (Rebecca Romijn-Stamos and Greg Kinnear)** tragically lose their 8-year-old son, **Adam (Cameron Bright)**. At the funeral, they're approached by an old teacher of Jessie's. researcher and doctor **Richard Wells (Robert De Niro)**, who offers them an opportunity: "I can give you Adam back. I can clone him, duplicate him and give him back to you. But no one can know. ..." With that softly whispered Faustian bargain, **Mark Bomback's** script leaves the gleaminghigh-tech world of genetics and science and eases down the dark, wooded path of campfire ghost stories. Adam is born for the second time, but around his eighth birthday, he beginsto have fits , sleepwalking terrors and visions of dead people in the house. **Director Nick Hamm** is proud that his chiller doesn't contain any computer-generated effects, and he should be - - not only does that decision help create a spare, sparse feeling, it also helps give **Godsend** a truly interesting tone. Too often in modern horror films, we're treated to every computer-generated hair on a werewolf's snarling head, or a grisly image straight from the latex-and-fake-blood workshops of Rick Baker or some other effects wizard. Godsend avoids that kind of imagination-sapping excess in favor of old-fashioned camerawork and naturalistic creepiness in the tradition of **THE SIX SENSE** and **THE RING** .**Godsend** is also enhanced by the performances. Interestingly, the most captivating performance in the film comes from **Cameron Bright**, the newcomer picked to play both versions of Adam. As **Godsend** moves through its plot, Bright's cool, collected performance has to alternate between confusion and mania, sympathetic confusion and blank-eyed fearsomeness, and he pulls it off; in fact, Bright is so strong that he rises above the screenplay. **Godsend** may lean a little heavily on horror clichés --- there's a conveniently abandoned tool shed full of sharp, rusty objects, and the plot's lynchpin of a miracle child who may or may not be diabolical is nothing new — but the film also works as a reminder of a time when horror-thrillers walked a line between science and the supernatural thattook audiences to a scary, new place.

ADVT.

Warning: Hungry 50-Foot Snakes on the Loose!

5TH ANACONDAS ATTACK DAY !

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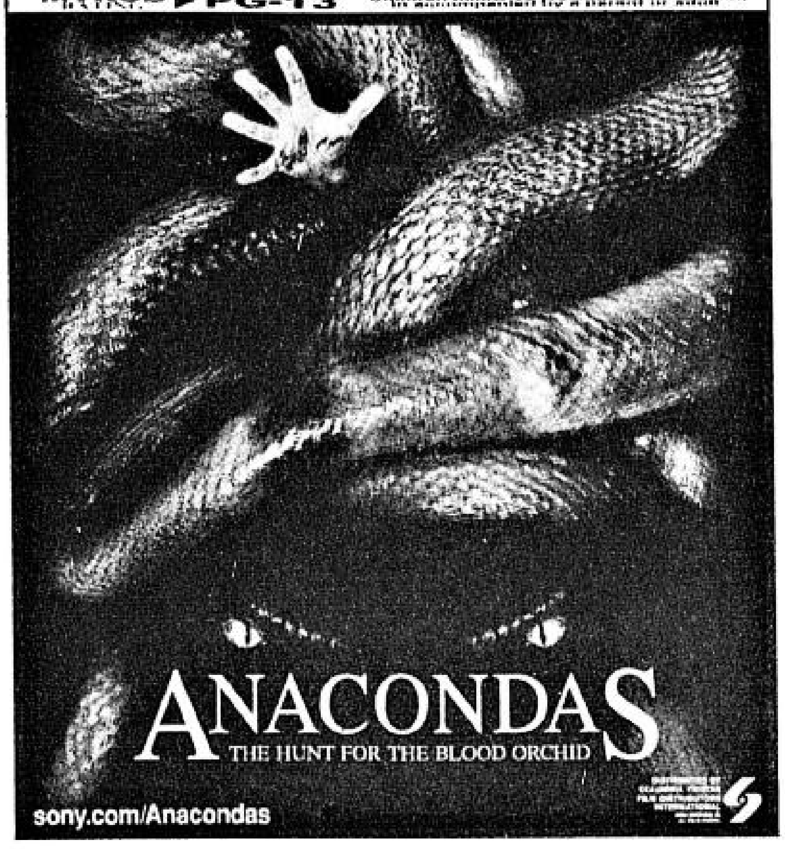
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david duchovny
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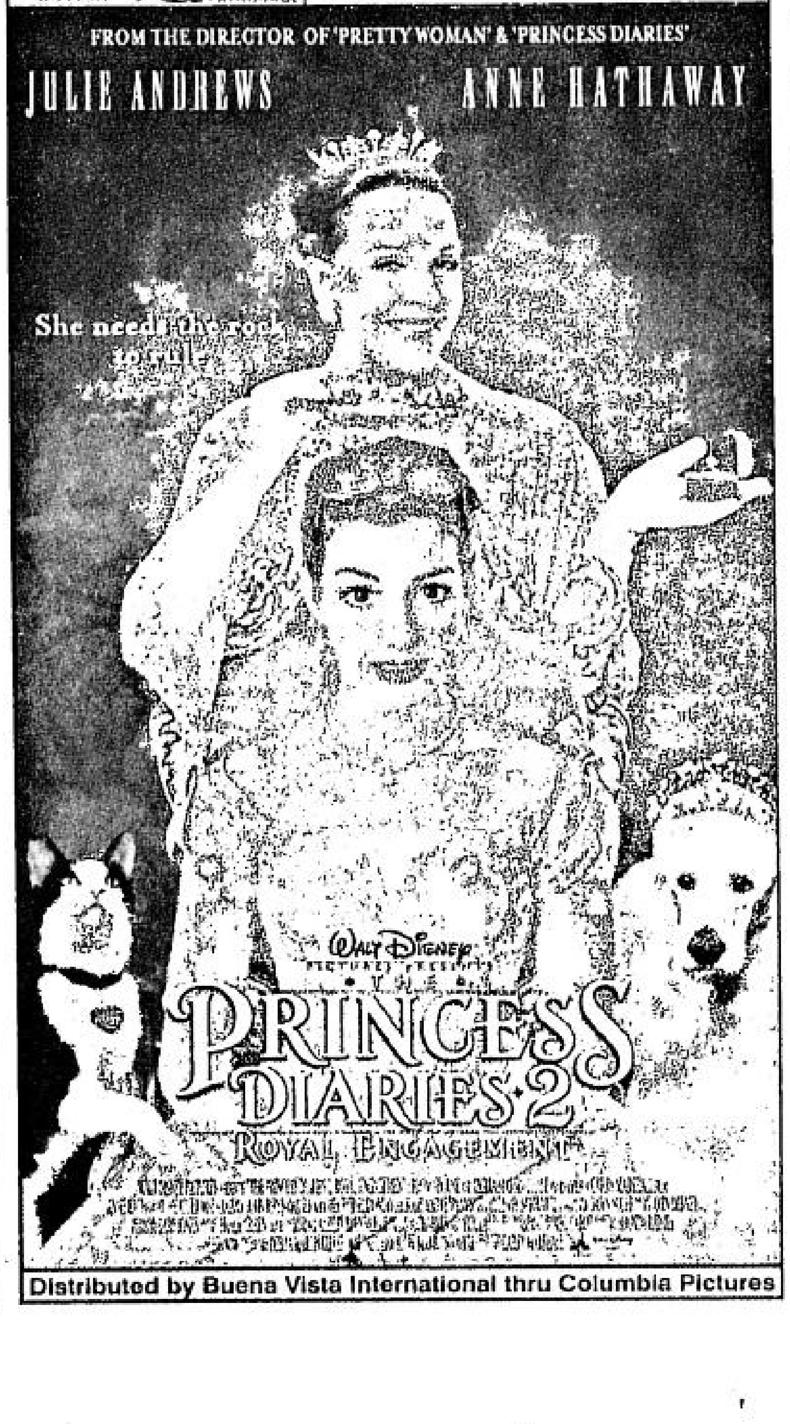
toni collette
Featuring our own Alec Mapa
When you follow your dream, there's no telling what you'll become.
GIRLS WILL BE BOYS WILL BE GIRLS.
CONNIE and CARLA

SECOND WEEK !

MTRCB RATING ▶ G GENERAL PATRONAGE ALL AGES ARE ADMITTED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She needs the rock to rule.
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"YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE A TEEN TO ENJOY '13 GOING ON 30.'"
Claudia Puig, USA TODAY
jennifer garner
13 going on 30
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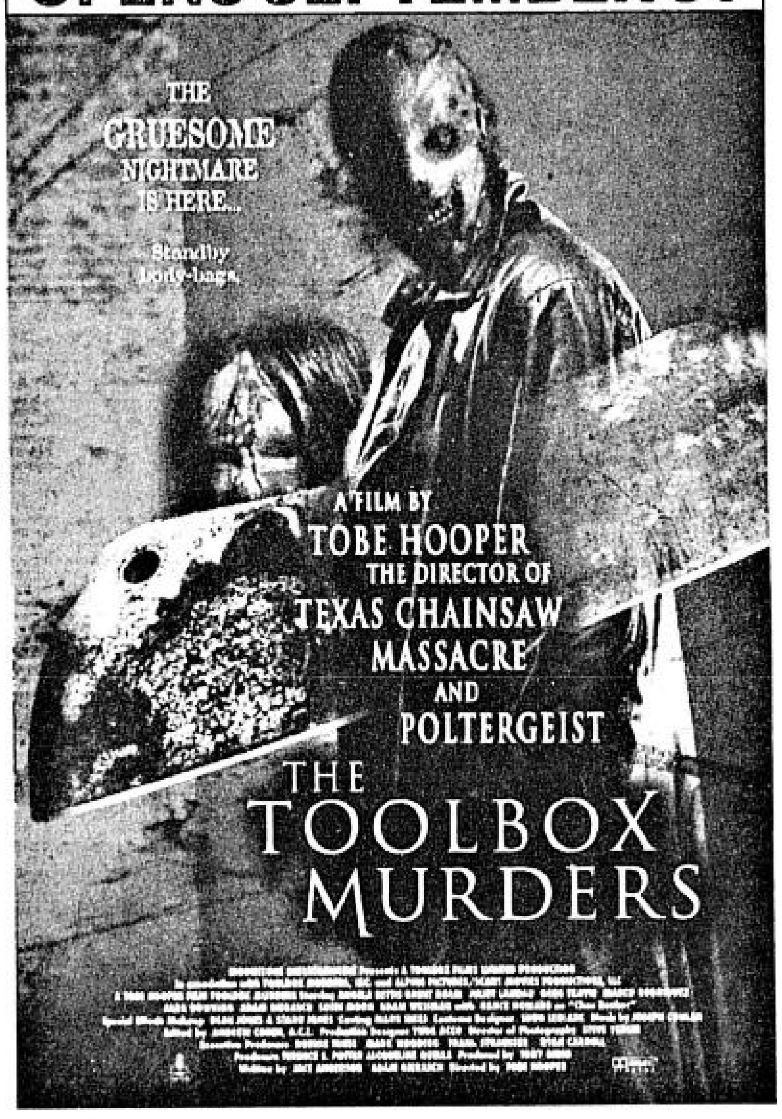
Distributed by COLUMBIA PICTURES

OPENS SEPTEMBER 8 !


THE GRUESOME NIGHTMARE IS HERE...
Standby Lody-bags
A FILM BY TOBE HOOPER
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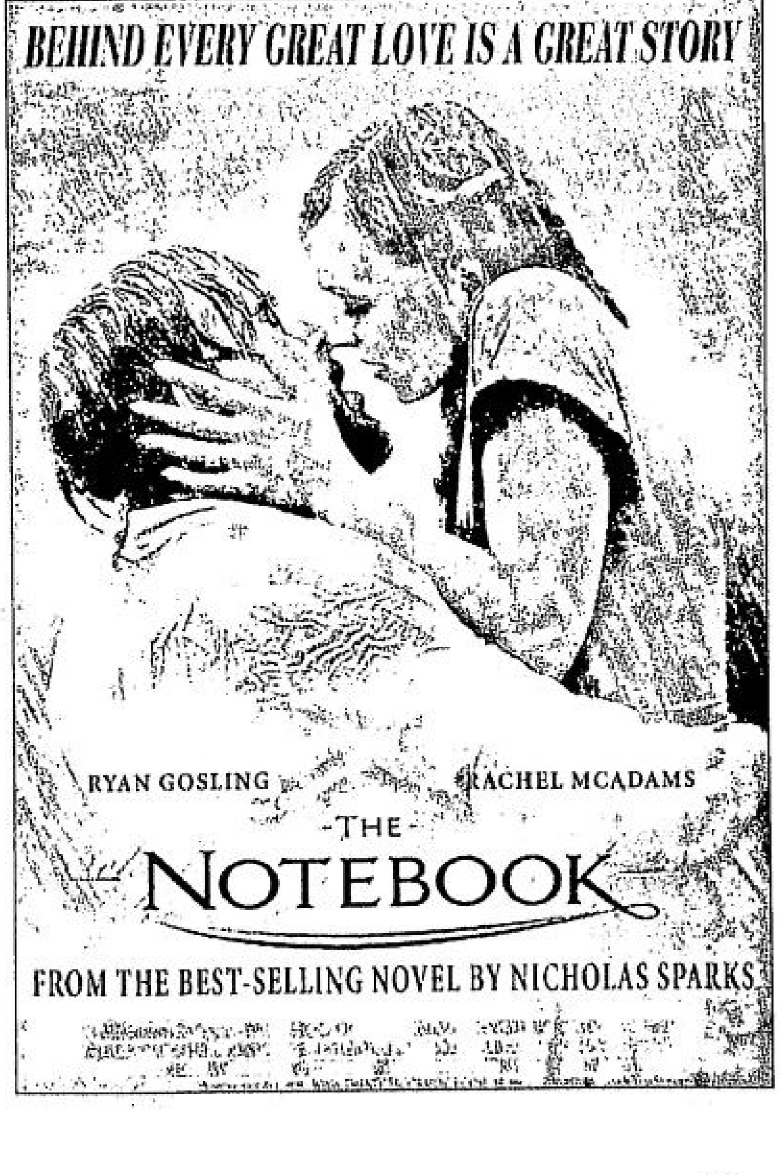
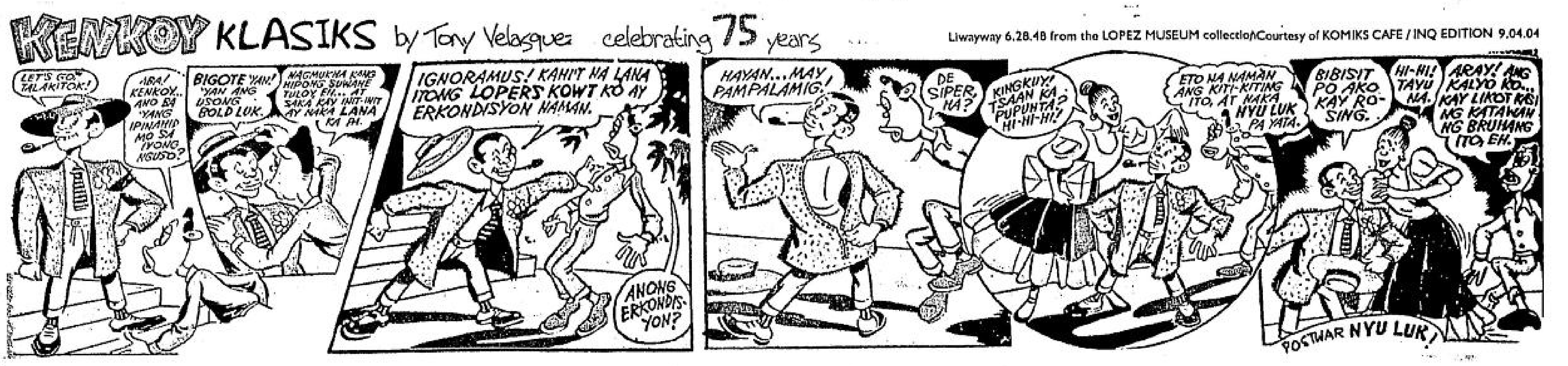

BEHIND EVERY GREAT LOVE IS A GREAT STORY
RYAN GOSLING
RACHEL MCADAMS
THE NOTEBOOK
FROM THE BEST-SELLING NOVEL BY NICHOLAS SPARKS


KENKOY KLASIKS by Tony Velasquez celebrating 75 years
LET'S GO TALAKITOK!
ABA! KENKOY.. ANO BA 'YANG IPINAHID MO SA IYONG NGUSO?
BIGOTE 'YAN! 'YAN ANG USONG BOLD LUK.
NAGMUKHA KANG HIPONG SUWAHE TULOY EH... AT SAKA KAY INIT-INIT AY NAKA LANA KA PA.
IGNORAMUS! KAHIT NA LANA ITONG LOPERS KOWT KO AY ERKONDISYON NAMAN.
ANONG ERKONDIS-YON?
HAYAN... MAY PAMPALAMIG!
DE SIPER, HA?
KINGKUY! TSAAN KA PUPUNTA? HI-HI-HI!
ETO NA NAMAN ANG KITI-KITING ITO, AT NAKA NYU LUK PA YATA.
BIBISIT PO AKO KAY RO-SING.
HI-HI! TAYU NA.
ARAY! ANG KALYO KO... KAY LIKOT KASI NG KATAWAN NG BRUHANG ITO, EH.
POSTWAR NYU LUK!

Liwayway 6.28.48 from the LOPEZ MUSEUM collection/Courtesy of KOMIKS CAFE / INQ EDITION 9.04.04

'Sandalwood': Music in a conspiracy of hope

By Tals Diaz
2bu

WHAT do award-winning singers, Broadway veterans and Assumption nuns share in common?

They are all part of a conspiracy, a "conspiracy of hope" as they touted, and their beautiful message is expressed in the newly released album, "Sandalwood."

"Sandalwood" takes its name from an old Spanish proverb which has Middle Eastern origins: "Be like the sandalwood, which perfumes the ax that wounds it."

Thus, the album is a collective story of hope and forgiveness, highlighted by Joey Albert and Cocoy Laurel.

"Sandalwood" is unlike any other spiritual CD you have ever heard before. It defies stereotypes because it is not at all preachy or over-syrupy. Instead, it is more about beautiful stories set in aurally fixating melodies.

The album's track list spans the range of musical genres, from pop, classical and jazz, to Latin and Celtic rhythms.

"Sandalwood" was launched in a soldout, special concert night held at the Rigodon ballroom of the Manila Peninsula on Aug. 17. Joey and Cocoy, as well as infinitely talented Assumption alumnae Cicy Campbell, Marilen Liwag Reambillo and Loudette Zaragoza Banson performed the various songs in the album.

There were quite a number of teary eyes in the audience, especially when some of the performers told about their own stories of personal struggles. Joey, who flew back to Manila from Vancouver to sing for the concert, spoke of coming "full circle," turning toward a deeper life of spirituality despite her continuing bout with cancer.

Touching lives

HOMECOMING. Joey Albert sings with Cocoy Laurel.

"This is a coming home to everything," Joey shares. "Every morsel that was embedded in me, it's all in here, in this project. This CD touches hearts. Other than to touch hearts and hopefully transform, you have to use every possible means to transform, hopefully for the better. I hope this CD just goes where it's supposed to go because it has a strong sense of purpose. This is something that I have done not for the career moves, but because I believe I have my purpose, which is to touch people's lives and to give a moment to think of the essential."

Joey sings five of the 13 tracks in the album, among them the ballads "Lift Your Face to the Rain," "Broken Alleluia," "I Cannot Do It Alone," "God of Hope," and "Just for You" with Cocoy.

Cocoy, who himself was coping with his father's recent death (former Vice President Salvador Laurel), described the work in "Sandalwood" as "beautiful singing."

Speaking about his experience in the album's collaboration, Cocoy shares, "It's very different from singing for a vast audience about another story, or about other Broadway musicals or something that means another thing. Of course, you can make even other songs an offering; it depends on how you make everything an offering. Sometimes, if you're singing for a musical, you try using technique and making it effortless, but because of tensions and things, it becomes effortful. But with this, it was so effortless because it felt like a great joy. I was singing beautifully because I was singing for the Lord."

Living messages

Produced in the United States, all songs were written by former Assumption sister Carmen "Pinky" Valdes, and produced by former talent manager and now US-based Nini Diaz.

Herself a survivor of a near-fatal stroke, Pinky Valdes decided to leave her legacy of inspiring songs in the hopes of making a difference in people's lives. "Sandalwood" is that very legacy.

Being true to the sandalwood's message of hope, all proceeds of the albums sale will benefit Tahanan Walang Hagdan, Chosen Children and the Assumption Education Centre in Bukidnon.

During the concert, Pinky called upon the audience to join her "conspiracy of hope," which is to become inspired, living messages of hope and forgiveness despite being in a world that inflicts suffering.

The album is currently a hot item in the independent distribution circuits in the United States, and is now being sold locally at all Tower Records and Music One stores, as well as House of Praise. A Filipino translation of "Sandalwood" is already in the works.

Miracle on 'Pasada Sais-Treinta': A day in the life of dzMM

By John M. Unson
Contributor

LAST Aug. 5, a Thursday, a miracle happened on dzMM, and listeners could not take their attention away. It happened for Kenneth de la Cruz, 15, and his mother, a teacher.

Kenneth had been diagnosed with end-stage kidney disease and needed immediate dialysis. His kidneys have ceased to function properly.

This meant two things. Kenneth would first need dialysis, a wearying procedure in which the body would be attached to a machine that would take charge of the blood cleansing. Then he would need a kidney transplant, which would cost P500,000.

Kenneth's mother, Maria Cecilia Abuting, couldn't afford a kidney transplant. She decided to seek help for his dialysis by bringing her son to "Pasada Sais-Treinta," the daily afternoon show on dzMM.

She hoped and prayed for even a small donation to help fund Kenneth's dialysis and medicines. Her prayer would be answered in a way she did not expect.

KAREN Davila

On "Pasada Sais-Treinta" that Thursday afternoon, hosts Karen Davila and Vic Lima asked Maria Cecilia to explain the situation to listeners.

Maria Cecilia said she was a single mother to Kenneth, who had to stop going to school after he was diagnosed with the end-stage kidney disease. For the dialysis, she had been soliciting money from family, relatives, friends and strangers, but she was running out of people to go to. Kenneth said in a soft, pained voice that he pitied his mother because she had been tirelessly looking for help. Sometimes, he said, he felt like losing hope and the will to live but he continued to struggle to live if only for his loved ones.

Mother and son's story was so touching that Karen's eyes started to fill with tears. Vic also got emotional and had to leave the radio booth to compose himself. Soon, Karen could no longer control herself and was sobbing as she appealed to listeners to help Kenneth and his mother.

Even while Karen and Vic continued to talk to Kenneth and his mother, donations were starting to pour in. First to respond to the appeal was Senate President Franklin Drilon, who said he was giving P75,000. Sen. Lito Lapid, Manila Mayor Lito Atienza, and another senator who asked for anonymity also pledged donations.

A doctor who happened to be in the building and heard the appeal donated the medicine that Kenneth needed.

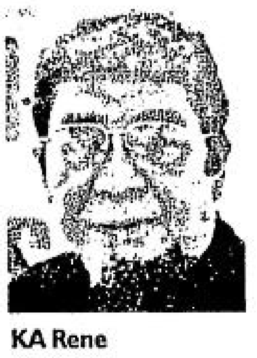
A 13-year-old girl named Gabrielle gave all her savings of P300. Kenneth said he could not possibly accept it. Gabrielle simply replied, "You need this more than I do."

By Aug. 9, or four days after the emotional broadcast, more than P400,000 had been raised for Kenneth's treatment. Some callers were even willing to donate kidneys for Kenneth's transplant.

Karen said it was not a first on "Pasada Sais-Treinta." She recalled the case of another boy named Nikolai who had a liver disease. The appeal for him on dzMM and ABS-CBN generated donations of almost P1.3 million.

"All of us can actually help make a miracle," Karen said days after the visit of Kenneth and his mother. "Help, no matter how small, can change people's lives."

Changing styles on RMN shows


KA Rene

SEÑOR Pacheco

THE TOP-RATED programs "Oro Mismo," anchored by Gani Oro, and "Doble Banda" of funny duo *Ka* Rene Jose and *Señor* Rey Pacheco now air live every morning on dzXL 558 of Radio Mindanao Network (RMN).

Keeping the 5-7 a.m. time slot of "Oro Mismo," award-winning broadcaster and NBN-4 TV news anchor Gani Oro gives listeners a wrapup of the day's news as well as features segments for students and workers.

"We have transformed the news broadcast to a news magazine format because I believe that news is not only about politicians," said Oro.

Among the new segments of the reinvigorated "Oro Mismo" are "Pinoy Hanapbuhay" for enterprising Filipinos, "Science and Technology" with UP professor Edmon Rosales, and "Balitang Eskwela" for students.

"Everything is here," said Oro, "including traffic situationers, weather reports, and listeners phoning in. This is both educational and informative. We also want to reach the majority of the population, between 18 and 45 years old."

Oro also hosts "Argumento," 7:30-8 a.m. on dzXL, with station manager Ely Saludar.

The RMN nationwide broadcast is supported by 17 field reporters in mega Manila and 25 provincial stations all over the country.

"Doble Banda" airs from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. Witty partners *Ka* Rene and *Señor* Pacheco provide listeners a lighthearted approach to news reporting.

"The style of radio has to change," said *Ka* Rene, speaking in Filipino. "Not all radio commentaries should be angry. We should also be able to make the listeners laugh."

But he stresses that injecting humor into the news does not mean the commentaries will be toothless.

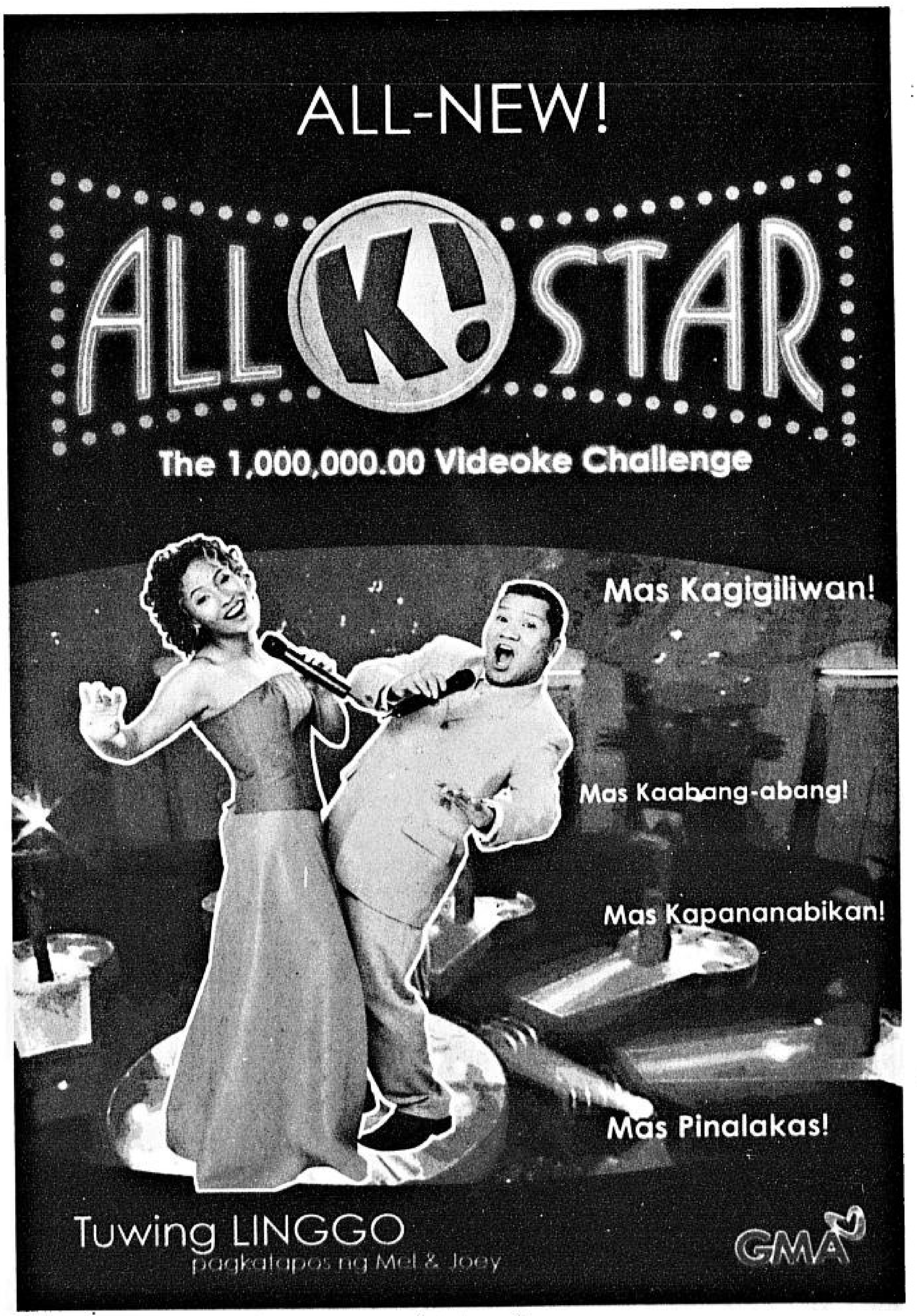
"*May kapilyuhan at lumalatay pa rin ang komentaryo*," he said.

Señor Pacheco said public service will continue to be an integral part of the program, with regular traffic news alerts from trapik.com as well as on-air interviews with government officials.

RMN, which earned more respect in the broadcasting industry for its reporting of the war in southern Philippines, is going for the big league with the recent addition of programs as well as veteran commentators.

It has also entered into a partnership with television station ABC 5 for the joint programming of primetime TV news program "Sentro ng Balita," anchored by John Susi and Ali Sotto, 5:30-6:30 p.m. Susi is also heard from 10 a.m. to 12 noon with Jamie Quinto on dzXL 558.

One of the pioneers in nationwide radio broadcasting, RMN celebrated its 52nd anniversary on Aug. 28.



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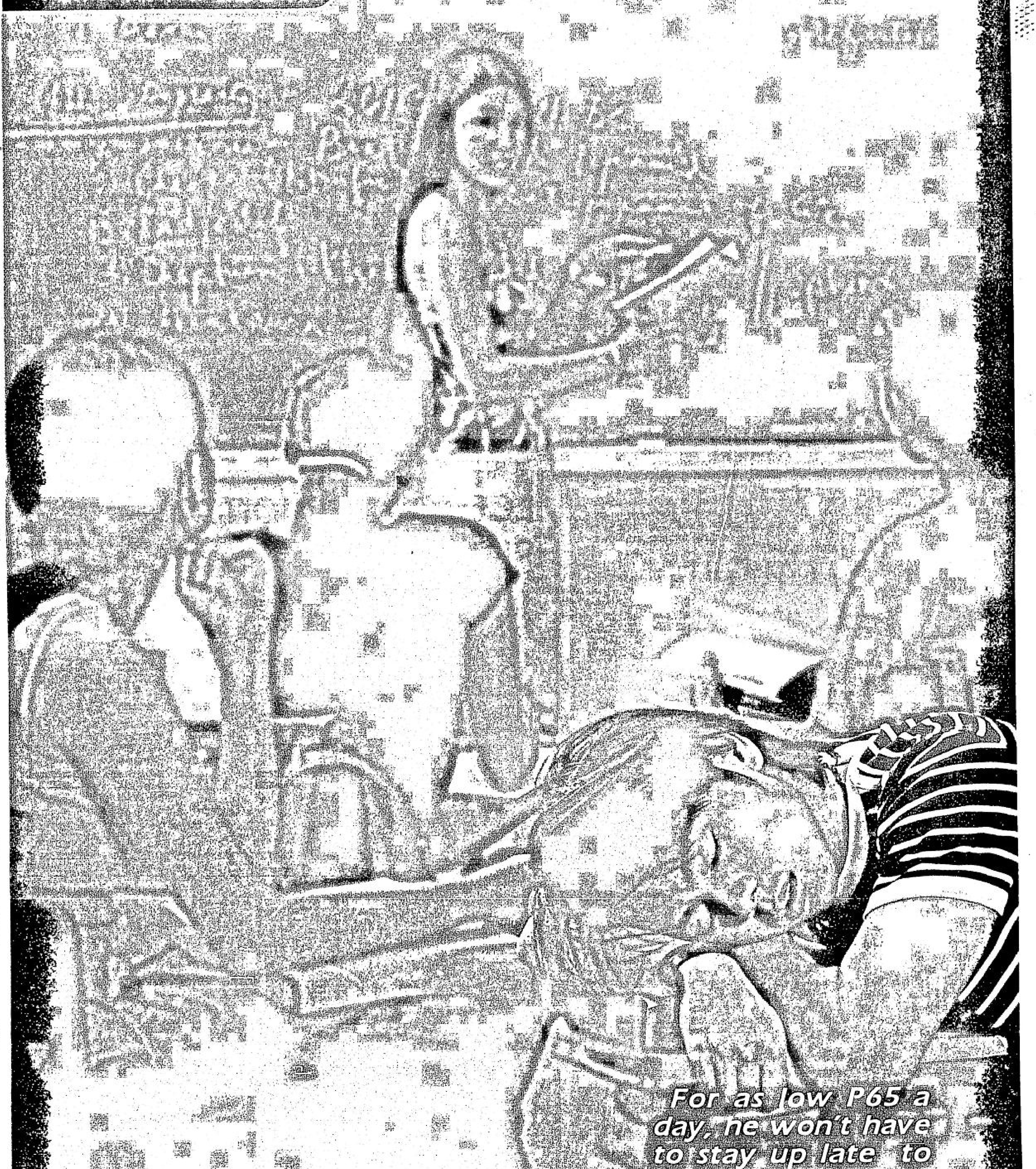
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Sunday BIZ
E-mail: pr_business@inquirer.com.ph
Business Features Editor **Margie Quimpo-Espino**

JM GUIAO PUNZALAN

THE TAIPAN'S eldest daughter retraces her father's steps since arriving from China at 12.

Henry Sy's daughter shares dad's story and his 14 life principles

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

WHILE most lessons are best learned through example, who best to share them than the one who has lived by those examples.

"I would have preferred that you hear the things I will be telling you directly from him. Instead, I shall be sharing with you some things I have learned from my father ... He lives to work and work he does for many hours a day. He is still very active, often looking over our shoulders in business," Teresita Sy, eldest daughter of taipan Henry Sy, tells an eager crowd.

A conference hall at the seventh floor of the Federation Building in Binondo some two weeks ago was packed with students, businessmen, and guests who gathered to hear Tessie Sy, president of Shoemart Inc. and chair of Banco de Oro. The occasion was the second of a series of taipan fora by the Federation of Filipino Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry Inc. (FFCCCII).

Tessie recalls how her father, Henry, came from a very humble background which drove him to make a living. He led a hard life in China and at age 12 decided to seek greener pastures in the Philippines. He put up a *sari-sari* store at first but wanted a better future for his family.

After World War II, he sold and imported American shoes and started opening a couple of shoe stores.

To be different from other shoe retailers, her father went on a long trip to the US to bring back shoe materials to give his products a more stylish look.

Her father then opened the first Shoemart in 1958 which he patterned after a shoe store in the US.

HENRY/ B2

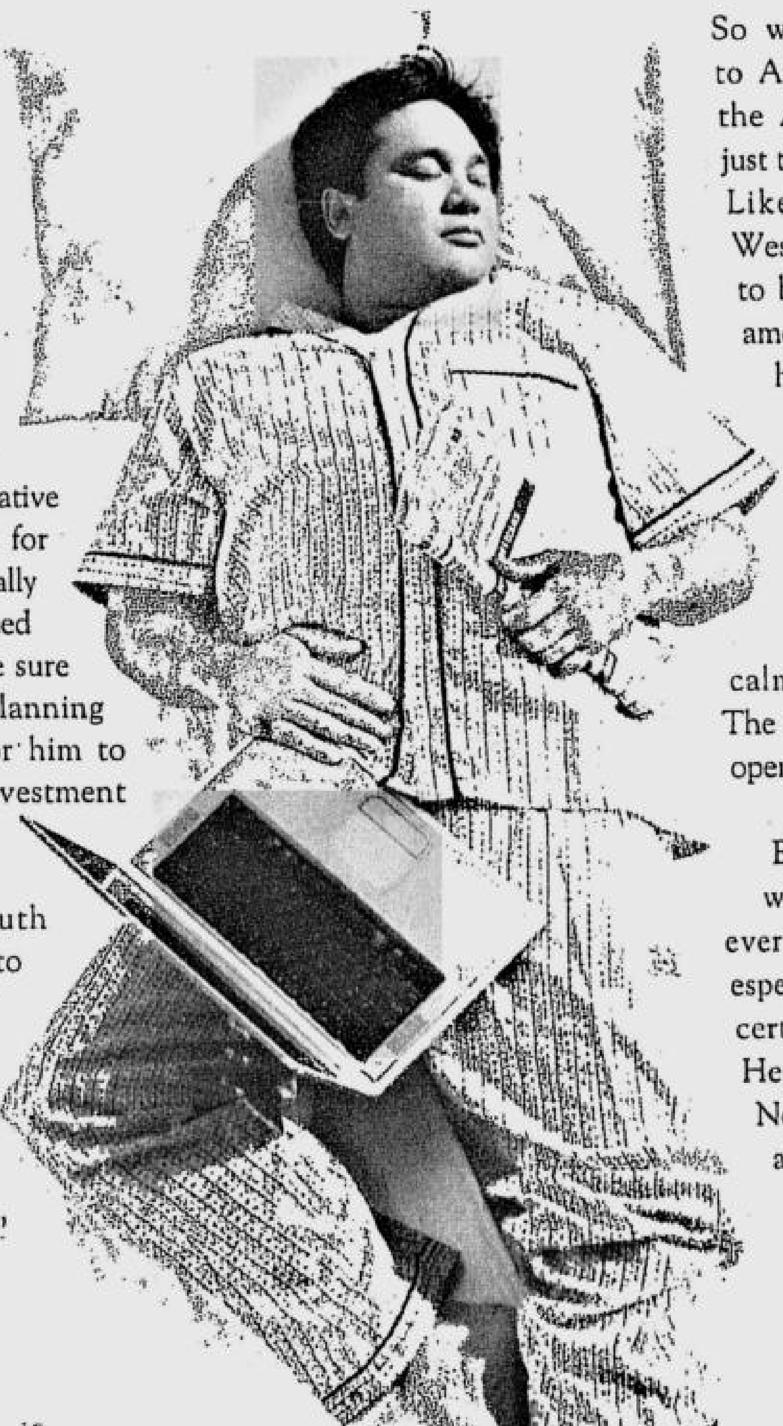
"When my investment allows me to sleep at night, I know I've made the right decision."

Eric Rabat
Ayala Westgrove Heights Lot Owner

It's never easy to look for a worthwhile investment. After all, with the amount of work one puts in just to earn a good living, the risks of making a bad investment almost always outweigh the gains. Should I invest in a business? A franchise? Stocks? Bonds? Or should I play it safe and leave my money in the bank?

These were the questions that haunted Eric Rabat for many years. He has always seen himself as a conservative investor; one who takes calculated risks and plans for the long-term. Before going into any venture, he usually does research and makes inquiries from more experienced folks. When he put up his food franchise, he made sure he took these steps. Not surprisingly, his pre-planning paid off big time. And when the time came for him to take another leap – buying his first major land investment – he adopted the same strategy.

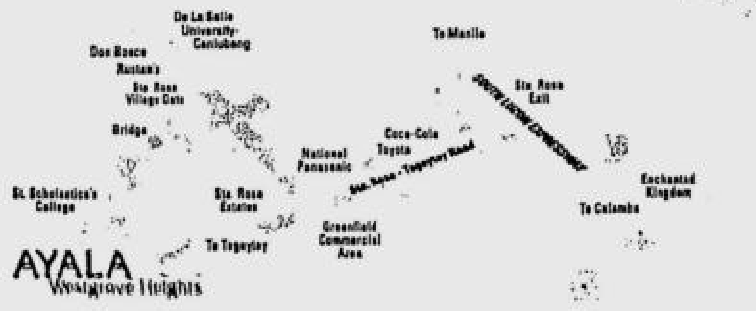
He knew that the South would be a good place to invest in having seen how Ayala Alabang thrived as a community. Through the years, lots here have appreciated 83 times their original value. If he wanted the same big opportunity, he had to act right away.



So when he was introduced to Ayala Westgrove Heights, the Ayala Land pedigree was just too familiar for him to resist. Like Ayala Alabang, Ayala Westgrove Heights is designed to be a self-contained community. All the necessary amenities are continuously being built around it: schools, hospitals, commercial centers, groceries and churches. Only 15 minutes away from Alabang, it is a sanctuary that does not isolate, but offers a chance to escape at the end of the day.

Inside, the lush mango groves and rolling hills, and the cool climate affords residents a certain calmness that is hardly available inside the cities. The entire property is master-planned to maintain the wide open roads and spaces with density kept at its most ideal.

Eric believes that this is the wisest land investment he has ever made for himself, but most especially, for his family. He is certain that Ayala Westgrove Heights is destined to be the Next Big Thing. Maybe that's why he sleeps soundly at night. Or maybe, his dreams are simply filled with the scent of fresh mornings spent amidst the hills and groves at Ayala Westgrove Heights.



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(FROM left): Chot Reyes, Anton Gonzalez, Tim Cone and Gil Coscolluela try their hand at cutting Cherry Reyes' hair. RUDY ESPERAS

Four men and their new baby

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

TWO winning professional basketball coaches, a leading architect and a dyed-in-the-wool entrepreneur got in touch with their feminine side and the Manila salon business was never the same again.

It was over a cup of coffee in 2002 when Coca-Cola Tigers coach Vicente "Chot" Reyes approached entrepreneur Anton Gonzalez with the idea of investing in the Philippine franchise of international salon group, Toni and Guy.

Chot and his wife Cherry, a veteran in the salon business, had just gotten the Toni and Guy franchise after over a year of waiting. And they were raring to try out the concept in the Philippines.

The Reyeses needed partners and Gonzalez was a logical choice.

Aside from having kept the friendship with Chot after their days at the short-lived Metropolitan Basketball Association, Gonzalez was an expert at retail, with his Planet Sports and Athlete's Foot chains, and managing name brands like Nike and Puma.

"I remember Chot being in very good spirits during that meeting because he and Cherry had just signed up for the master franchise. I joined because I know brands and if there is any brand in the salon business, it is Toni and Guy," Gonzalez said.

Architect Gil Coscolluela did not know as much about the business as he does high-rise buildings and construction projects, but he nevertheless joined to test new waters.

Being a friend of Gonzalez since grade school days also helped convince him to put his money in the venture.

Taking a friendship to another level was also one reason why Alaska coach Tim Cone answered Chot and Cherry's call for investors.

"It was also a great opportunity for my wife, Cris. It was something that she was really interested in. Then on top of that was the idea that Chot was involved. He is a good friend and I know that he is a great organizer. This was a chance for us to keep our friendship because when we play for rival teams, we can get a little distant," Cone said.

With lawyer Gabby Concepcion and Chot's aunt Susan Reyes on the board, the Toni and Guy team was complete and the shareholders got right down to business.

FOUR/B3

BUSINESS TRAVEL

Bargains in Casablanca's 'Medina,' Laduree's macaroons, secret places

By Sandra Garcia
Contributor

TRAVELING on business should also have some pleasure. It can be a leisurely respite from the boardroom for crisp cotton shirts at Saks Fifth Avenue or a quick trip to the cheapest flea market for vintage clothes in Paris. Or a quick cup of good coffee in Mexico.

Our business travelers take us on a tour of Morocco, Paris, Borobodur, the US and Mexico as they share their secret addresses.

"In Rabat, the capital city of Morocco, we recommend La Mama, a restaurant in the heart of the city off Avenue Mohammed V (main road). Popular with the expatriates, La Mama's ambiance is rustic and cozy. Specialties include grilled steaks, brochettes and pizzas baked in a clay oven.

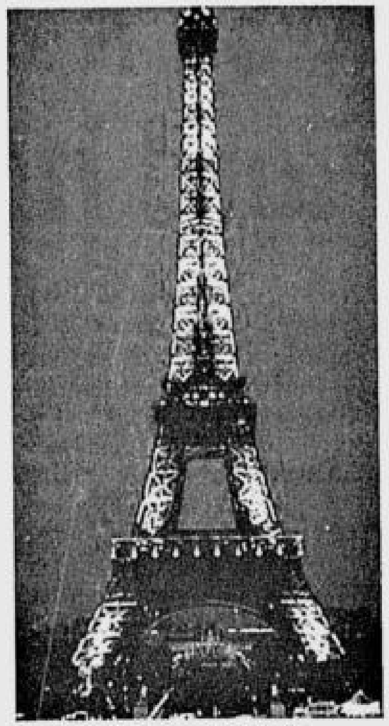
The Moroccan Restaurant at the Hotel Tour Hassan in downtown Rabat is our favorite for couscous, tagines (stews) with your choice of fish, chicken or lamb delicately and slowly baked in a glazed clay pot flavored with a delicate blend of spices like coriander, turmeric and basil with stewed tomatoes, olives courgettes, carrots, etc.

For breads and pastries it's [illegible] Petit Duchesse, a very popu[illegible] downtown bakery founded by a Frenchman decades ago. They are known for their authentic French baguette, assorted pastries and petit fours.

La Mer in Casablanca is famous for its seafood dishes always fresh and lip-smacking. This ambient casually elegant restaurant is located in the outskirts of Casablanca on a high perch at the edge of the scenic coast of the Atlantic Ocean. Breathtaking view while enjoying your meal.

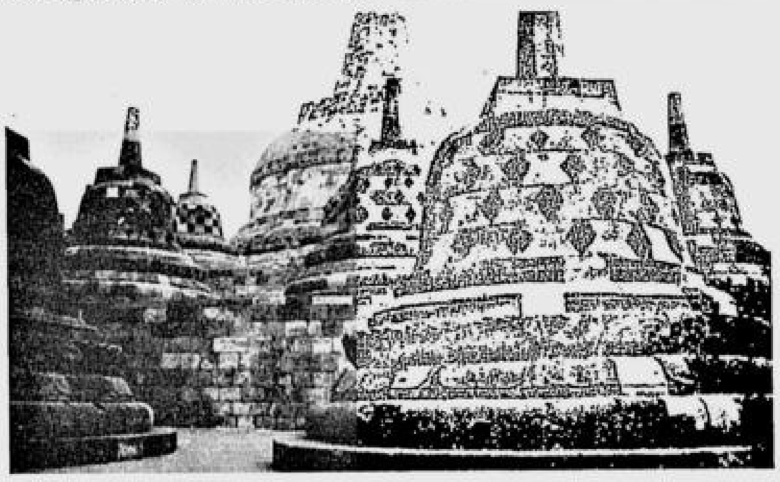
The Hotel Mamounia is a "must see" when in Marrakesh. Splendid appointments, elegant and opulent, watering hole of the rich and famous.

In all major Moroccan cities like Rabat, Marrakesh, Casablanca, Fez, Tangiers, etc., a visit to a "Medina" to these cities is a must. Exquisite hand-crafted sliver jewelry, carpets, leather goods and local handicrafts abound in the maze of alleys that criss-cross the "Medina." Interesting experience—*Ambassador Hermenegildo Garcia, career diplomat*



THE EIFFEL Tower in Paris

DISCOVER the secret addresses in captivating Morocco



THE BOROBODUR

"In Paris, blink and you will miss this discreet place—Hotel Bourg Tibourg, a hotel in the Marais owned by the Costes family—decorated by Jacques Garcia at a fraction of the price of their other hotels. It is only a boutique hotel but you get the same cool amenities.

Hotel Bourg Tibourg, 19 rue du Bourg-Tibourg, 4th Arrondissement, Metro-Hotel de Ville

Le Martel. Forget about Momo in London. This French-Algerian bistro takes the crown as the best hip North African restaurant. Decorated unlike a casbah, enjoy your couscous and tagine with John Galliano or Vivienne Westwood at the next table. Le Martel 3 Rue Martel, 10th arrondissement, Metro-Chateau d'Eau

The Bar at Plaza Athenee, decorated in the neo-Louis XIV style, is the best bar to drink your kir royale. Survey the scene in front of you and you get a cross section of fashionable Paris-Plaza Athenee 25 Avenue Montaigne, 8th Arrondissement, Metro- Alma- Marceau

Never leave Paris without having tea or at least buy their macaroons at Laduree. Taste the heavenly macaroons and you would wish this is what Proust had instead of the Madeleine!

Laduree- 16 Rue Royale, 8th Arrondissement

For the traveling fashionistas: Not to miss is Marche Aux Puces de Montreuil—the cheapest flea market in Paris for vintage clothes. You have to trawl through piles and piles of clothing though but worth it for a fashionista. Metro Porte de Montreuil, open Monday-Saturday, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.—*Georgina Roberta, frequent business traveler, London, England*

"Café Ibetico in the trendy river north entertainment district. They serve mouth-watering tapas (the owner is from the Iberian peninsula in Spain) and the meanest sangria served by the pitcher. Outstanding food at reasonable prices. 742 N. La Salle in Chicago"—*Richard Ostrowsky, businessman, Chicago, Illinois*

"When in the US, I shop at Saks Fifth Avenue in New York for my cotton shirts (they are reasonably priced). I can't really say if it is the best as I haven't really surveyed the entire world but there's a quaint little watering hole in Cozumel, Mexico, called Carlos & Charlie's. They serve real good coffee. Really perks you up."—*Bob Zozobrado, president, Ideaz, frequent business traveler*

"Borobodur in Indonesia is just fantastic. Truly a wonder of the world. When there don't miss a trip to the sultan's palace, bird market and potters village The Aman Jiwo Resort is indeed something to write home about. You must try out the relaxing spa therapy at this resort"—*Vernon Prieto, travel planner (Guam)*

Henry Sy's daughter shares dad's story and 14 principles

From page B1

As her father expanded his shoe store chain, he also discovered that shoe supplies were limited and this could hinder growth of the business.

Realizing this, he expanded to apparel and accessories leading to the opening of the first SM department store in Quiapo after the declaration of martial law.

Soon after, bigger stores were put up in Makati, Cubao and Harrison. After surveying markets he found there was a bigger opportunity beyond the department store concept. A major shopping center was then built in North Edsa in 1983, and opened in late 1985 in the midst of a political crisis after the assassination of former Sen. Benigno Aquino, Jr.

"Amidst numerous warnings from people who did not believe it could be done and even thought him crazy for his plans, it turned out to be a huge success. People from as far as Central Luzon and the Southern Tagalog region were drawn to the first SM City especially on weekends," she said.

Undaunted by the warnings, Henry Sy gained more confidence by opening more malls and stores nationwide, bringing its total network to 18 to date. He also dipped his feet in banking in the late '70s with the Ayalas as partners to put up Banco de Oro as he saw the synergy in banking and mall operations.

Sy said her father had always dreamed of making a place for himself in the business world. To achieve this, he devised long-term strategies and worked "doubly hard" on his own without funds, family backing nor political connections.

Sy added that through the years, her father gathered a number of principles which he practiced and became the Sy family mantra. The mantra is a merger of Eastern and Western, Chinese and universal, modern and traditional as well as theoretical and practical ideas.

BUY PINOY, SAVE JOBS!

BUSINESSMEN listen to SM Inc. president Teresita Sy during the FFCCCII Taipan Entrepreneurship Forum at the Federation in Binondo, Manila. JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

She shares the following 14 principles:

1. Strive to be a leader in your chosen field. Being a leader means being different, taking bold steps and going to unexplored places. Leadership is a skill and process which like other skills can be learned through practice. Being a leader means not waiting for motivation from others. It also means knowing and focusing on one's target and pushing oneself beyond his comfort zone.

2. Be a person of integrity. Be fair, credible and trustworthy and put a lot of weight in commitments and responsibilities.

3. Have a long-term vision and strategy. Sy said her father invested in the future and sought long-term relationships in business.

4. Focusing would mean concentrating and prioritizing. Once goals are identified, this would allow the entrepreneur to concentrate on areas of strength. Sy said her father concentrated on four main areas—retail, shopping centers, banking and leisure property development. He focused on integrating these and adding value to each area.

"He taught us that as our business grows, we also have to go back to basics and concentrate our resources in areas wherein we have a competitive advantage," she said.

5. Have a great passion to achieve. Desires set one's destiny. Sy said the stronger the will power to achieve, the greater one's potential.

She said the adversities of World War II deprived her father of quality education. He knew that education would make him go far so he pursued a college degree but had to stop after two years.

"Opportunities were open for him to see the world, hence, he had to make a choice between finishing his education or traveling to broaden his knowledge. His passion made him choose the latter," Sy said.

6. Work hard. Henry Sy told his children there is no substitute for hard work. Long before people lived by "24/7" (24 hours-7 days), Sy was used to working 14 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Sy said she and her siblings were trained to work long hours, developing the stamina that has made them work in the retail business. This had also made up for some of their deficiencies such as lack of experience and connections.

"Success will not last if you do not continue to work hard, my Dad would always tell us. If you are lacking in some aspects, work harder and longer and you may be able to catch up. If you have caught up, work longer so you can surpass your competitors," Sy said of her father.

7. Be patient and persevere. Henry Sy reminded his children that there is no such thing as overnight success nor easy money. If it does happen then it could be luck. Even if one gets lucky, he has to work hard to sustain it. If you fail, do not be discouraged. Try again as they always say.

8. Recognize opportunity. It is one thing to see opportunity, another to do something about it. When opportunity comes, you should be ready to react, otherwise it goes to someone else. Opportunity does not always come knocking. You've got to go out and look for it. Take stock of your assets, talents and resources. Pick the best opportunity you see and take it as far as you can. Don't stop until you have done everything you can do to make it happen. What others would consider as luck is a combination of opportunity knocking and being ready for it.

9. Try to be optimistic. Sy observed optimism is difficult in the Philippines. Her father's business career has been through a number of major crises in its key periods of growth. Henry Sy opened his first department store at the start of martial law.

At a time when interest rates were peaking at 45 percent in the midst of a political and economic crisis in 1983, he started building his first shopping center despite the criticism of bankers and well-meaning friends.

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She added that her father realized companies will face a number of crises where each Filipino has to survive and move on.

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"If we have the passion and the drive and can react appropriately to opportunity that comes our way, there could be many Henry Sys," she said.

(FROM left): Chot Reyes, Anton Gonzalez, Tim Cone and Gil Coscolluela try their hand at cutting Cherry Reyes' hair. RUDY ESPERAS

Four men and their new baby

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

TWO winning professional basketball coaches, a leading architect and a dyed-in-the-wool entrepreneur got in touch with their feminine side and the Manila salon business was never the same again.

It was over a cup of coffee in 2002 when Coca-Cola Tigers coach Vicente "Chot" Reyes approached entrepreneur Anton Gonzalez with the idea of investing in the Philippine franchise of international salon group, Toni and Guy.

Chot and his wife Cherry, a veteran in the salon business, had just gotten the Toni and Guy franchise after over a year of waiting. And they were raring to try out the concept in the Philippines.

The Reyeses needed partners and Gonzalez was a logical choice.

Aside from having kept the friendship with Chot after their days at the short-lived Metropolitan Basketball Association, Gonzalez was an expert at retail, with his Planet Sports and Athlete's Foot chains, and managing name brands like Nike and Puma.

"I remember Chot being in very good spirits during that meeting because he and Cherry had just signed up for the master franchise. I joined because I know brands and if there is any brand in the salon business, it is Toni and Guy," Gonzalez said.

Architect Gil Coscolluela did not know as much about the business as he does high-rise buildings and construction projects, but he nevertheless joined to test new waters.

Being a friend of Gonzalez since grade school days also helped convince him to put his money in the venture.

Taking a friendship to another level was also one reason why Alaska coach Tim Cone answered Chot and Cherry's call for investors.

"It was also a great opportunity for my wife, Cris. It was something that she was really interested in. Then on top of that was the idea that Chot was involved. He is a good friend and I know that he is a great organizer. This was a chance for us to keep our friendship because when we play for rival teams, we can get a little distant," Cone said.

With lawyer Gabby Concepcion and Chot's aunt Susan Reyes on the board, the Toni and Guy team was complete and the shareholders got right down to business.

FOUR/ B3

Bargains in Casablanca's 'Medina,' Laduree's macaroons, secret places

By Sandra Garcia
Contributor

TRAVELING on business should also have some pleasure. It can be a leisurely respite from the boardroom for crisp cotton shirts at Saks Fifth Avenue or a quick trip to the cheapest flea market for vintage clothes in Paris. Or a quick cup of good coffee in Mexico.

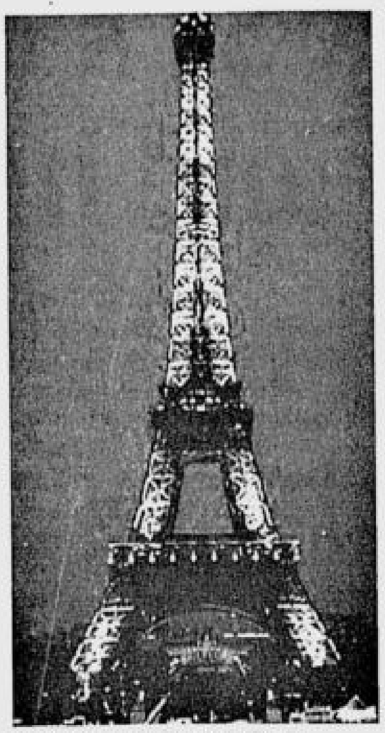
Our business travelers take us on a tour of Morocco, Paris, Borobudur, the US and Mexico as they share their secret addresses.

"In Rabat, the capital city of Morocco, we recommend La Mama, a restaurant in the heart of the city off Avenue Mohammed V (main road). Popular with the expatriates, La Mama's ambiance is rustic and cozy. Specialties include grilled steaks, brochettes and pizzas baked in a clay oven.

The Moroccan Restaurant at the Hotel Tour Hassan in downtown Rabat is our favorite for couscous, tagines (stews) with your choice of fish, chicken or lamb delicately and slowly baked in a glazed clay pot flavored with a delicate blend of spices like coriander, turmeric and basil with stewed tomatoes, olives, courgettes, carrots, etc.

For breads and pastries it's La Petit Duchesse, a very popular downtown bakery founded by a Frenchman decades ago. They are known for their authentic French baguette, assorted pastries and petit fours.

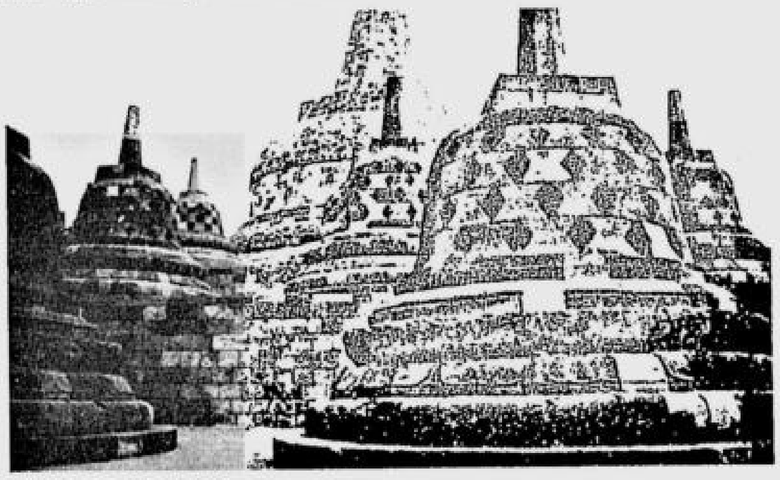
La Mer in Casablanca is famous for its seafood dishes always fresh and lip-smacking. This ambient casually elegant restaurant is located in the outskirts of Casablanca on a high perch at the edge of the scenic coast of the Atlantic Ocean. Breathtaking view while enjoying your meal.



THE EIFFEL Tower in Paris

The Hotel Mamounia is a "must see" when in Marrakesh. Splendid appointments, elegant and opulent, watering hole of the rich and famous.

In all major Moroccan cities like Rabat, Marrakesh, Casablanca, Fez, Tangiers, etc., a visit to a "Medina" to these cities is a must. Exquisite hand-crafted sliver jewelry, carpets, leather goods and local handicrafts abound in the maze of alleys that criss-cross the "Medina." Interesting experience—*Ambassador Hermenegildo Garcia, career diplomat*



THE BOROBODUR

DISCOVER the secret addresses in captivating Morocco

"In Paris, blink and you will miss this discreet place—Hotel Bourg Tibourg, a hotel in the Marais owned by the Costes family—decorated by Jacques Garcia at a fraction of the price of their other hotels. It is only a boutique hotel but you get the same cool amenities.

Hotel Bourg Tibourg, 19 rue du Bourg-Tibourg, 4th Arrondissement, Metro-Hotel de Ville

Le Martel. Forget about Momo in London. This French-Algerian bistro takes the crown as the best hip North African restaurant. Decorated unlike a casbah, enjoy your couscous and tagine with John Galliano or Vivienne Westwood at the next table. Le Martel 3 Rue Martel, 10th arrondissement, Metro-Chateau d'Eau

BUSINESS TRAVEL

The Bar at Plaza Athenee, decorated in the neo-Louis XIV style, is the best bar to drink your kir royale. Survey the scene in front of you and you get a cross section of fashionable Paris-Plaza Athenee 25 Avenue Montaigne, 8th Arrondissement, Metro- Alma- Marceau

Never leave Paris without having tea or at least buy their macaroons at Laduree. Taste the heavenly macaroons and you would wish this is what Proust had instead of the Madeleine!

Laduree- 16 Rue Royale, 8th Arrondissement

For the traveling fashionistas: Not to miss is Marche Aux Puces de Montreuil—the cheapest flea market in Paris for vintage clothes. You have to trawl through piles and piles of clothing though but worth it for a fashionista. Metro Porte de Montreuil, open Monday-Saturday, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.—*Georgina Roberta, frequent business traveler, London, England*

"Café Ibetico in the trendy river north entertainment district. They serve mouth-watering tapas (the owner is from the Iberian peninsula in Spain) and the meanest sangria served by the pitcher. Outstanding food at reasonable prices. 742 N. La Salle in Chicago"—*Richard Ostrowsky, businessman, Chicago, Illinois*

"When in the US, I shop at Saks Fifth Avenue in New York for my cotton shirts (they are reasonably priced). I can't really say if it is the best as I haven't really surveyed the entire world but there's a quaint little watering hole in Cozumel, Mexico, called Carlos & Charlie's. They serve real good coffee. Really perks you up."—*Bob Zozobrado, president, Ideaz, frequent business traveler*

"Borobodur in Indonesia is just fantastic. Truly a wonder of the world. When there don't miss a trip to the sultan's palace, bird market and potters village The Aman Jiwo Resort is indeed something to write home about. You must try out the relaxing spa therapy at this resort"—*Vernon Prieto, travel planner (Guam)*

Henry Sy's daughter shares dad's story and 14 principles

From page B1

As her father expanded his shoe store chain, he also discovered that shoe supplies were limited and this could hinder growth of the business.

Realizing this, he expanded to apparel and accessories leading to the opening of the first SM department store in Quiapo after the declaration of martial law.

Soon after, bigger stores were put up in Makati, Cubao and Harrison. After surveying markets he found there was a bigger opportunity beyond the department store concept. A major shopping center was then built in North Edsa in 1983, and opened in late 1985 in the midst of a political crisis after the assassination of former Sen. Benigno Aquino, Jr.

"Amidst numerous warnings from people who did not believe it could be done and even thought him crazy for his plans, it turned out to be a huge success. People from as far as Central Luzon and the Southern Tagalog region were drawn to the first SM City especially on weekends," she said.

Undaunted by the warnings, Henry Sy gained more confidence by opening more malls and stores nationwide, bringing its total network to 18 to date. He also dipped his feet in banking in the late '70s with the Ayalas as partners to put up Banco de Oro as he saw the synergy in banking and mall operations.

Sy said her father had always dreamed of making a place for himself in the business world. To achieve this, he devised long-term strategies and worked "doubly hard" on his own without funds, family backing nor political connections.

Sy added that through the years, her father gathered a number of principles which he practiced and became the Sy family mantra. The mantra is a merger of Eastern and Western, Chinese and universal, modern and traditional as well as theoretical and practical ideas.

BUY PINOY, SAVE JOBS!

BUSINESSMEN listen to SM Inc. president Teresita Sy during the FFCCCII Taipan Entrepreneurship Forum at the Federation in Binondo, Manila. JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

She shares the following 14 principles:

1. Strive to be a leader in your chosen field. Being a leader means being different, taking bold steps and going to unexplored places. Leadership is a skill and process which like other skills can be learned through practice. Being a leader means not waiting for motivation from others. It also means knowing and focusing on one's target and pushing oneself beyond his comfort zone.

2. Be a person of integrity. Be fair, credible and trustworthy and put a lot of weight in commitments and responsibilities.

3. Have a long-term vision and strategy. Sy said her father invested in the future and sought long-term relationships in business.

4. Focusing would mean concentrating and prioritizing. Once goals are identified, this would allow the entrepreneur to concentrate on areas of strength. Sy said her father concentrated on four main areas—retail, shopping centers, banking and leisure property development. He focused on integrating these and adding value to each area.

"He taught us that as our business grows, we also have to go back to basics and concentrate our resources in areas wherein we have a competitive advantage," she said.

5. Have a great passion to achieve. Desires set one's destiny. Sy said the stronger the will power to achieve, the greater one's potential.

She said the adversities of World War II deprived her father of quality education. He knew that education would make him go far so he pursued a college degree but had to stop after two years.

"Opportunities were open for him to see the world, hence, he had to make a choice between finishing his education or traveling to broaden his knowledge. His passion made him choose the latter," Sy said.

6. Work hard. Henry Sy told his children there is no substitute for hard work. Long before people lived by "24/7" (24 hours-7 days), Sy was used to working 14 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Sy said she and her siblings were trained to work long hours, developing the stamina that has made them work in the retail business. This had also made up for some of their deficiencies such as lack of experience and connections.

"Success will not last if you do not continue to work hard, my Dad would always tell us. If you are lacking in some aspects, work harder and longer and you may be able to catch up. If you have caught up, work longer so you can surpass your competitors," Sy said of her father.

7. Be patient and persevere. Henry Sy reminded his children that there is no such thing as overnight success nor easy money. If it does happen then it could be luck. Even if one gets lucky, he has to work hard to sustain it. If you fail, do not be discouraged. Try again as they always say.

8. Recognize opportunity. It is one thing to see opportunity, another to do something about it. When opportunity comes, you should be ready to react, otherwise it goes to someone else. Opportunity does not always come knocking. You've got to go out and look for it. Take stock of your assets, talents and resources. Pick the best opportunity you see and take it as far as you can. Don't stop until you have done everything you can do to make it happen. What others would consider as luck is a combination of opportunity knocking and being ready for it.

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This Tagaytay coffee shop also serves British pies

By Madonna T. Virola
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

TAGAYTAY CITY—From a tall grass-filled lot along 115 Aguinaldo Highway in Mendez Crossing here, the site of Bag of Beans has always been occupied by parked vehicles as the coffee shop has become a favorite destination for its coffee, chocolate and British bread and pies.

"Our products are right for the cold weather here," says owner Charito "Chato" Antiquera, 39.

Adding attraction to the Bag and Beans is its natural garden setting.

"I don't go for manicured garden," adds Chato, who also looks after a family of dogs and chimpanzee.

Samareña

A native of Samar, Chato finished Banking and Finance. But she has a penchant for cooking. "I experiment and do not depend on what is in the book," she says. Antiquera migrated to Tagaytay City upon the invitation of a friend.

After one year of office work in Manila, she went abroad. Within six years, she worked in Sheraton and Meridian in Dubai where she met British Eric Whitfield and his daughter, who were on vacation. Whitfield became her boyfriend.

"Eric did not let me go, especially when he learned that I live in Tagaytay where the climate is cooler like London."

Eric and Chato settled in Tagaytay and thought of going into business, with coffee as its main attraction.

SAMAREÑA Chato Antiquera

Their first chosen name for the business was Mr. Beans. But an earlier registrant with the Department of Trade and Industry had already used the name. So the couple instead made it Bag of Beans.

"It was difficult at first. We really borrowed money from the pawnshop for our capital. It was depressing," recalls Chato.

Their initial investment was P1,000. The couple conducted taste tests to determine which food to serve.

Growth

From a 200-square-meter leased lot she called the old beans, Chato expanded to a 700-square-meter business space, the new beans, when Eric passed away due to heart attack in 2001.

But Eric's death did not harm the business. Like the plants of Chato, which she gets from friends Popo San Pascual and Susan Meyer, the Bag of Beans prospered with her "hands-on management."

She implemented all that she wanted for the business.

"My friends told me that I'm so gutsy with the business set-up," says Antiquera.

The business' capital has grown to 500 percent from its starting capital.

From one helper, there are already 22 full-time workers. The renewal of rent for the old beans is monthly at P12,000 while there is a five-year contract for new beans at P10,000 per month, which will increase by 10 percent every year.

Just go on

Bag of Beans is open from 7 a.m. until 9 p.m. On weekends, it extends until midnight. "On weekends, our parking lot is full and per batch of customers reaches 200."

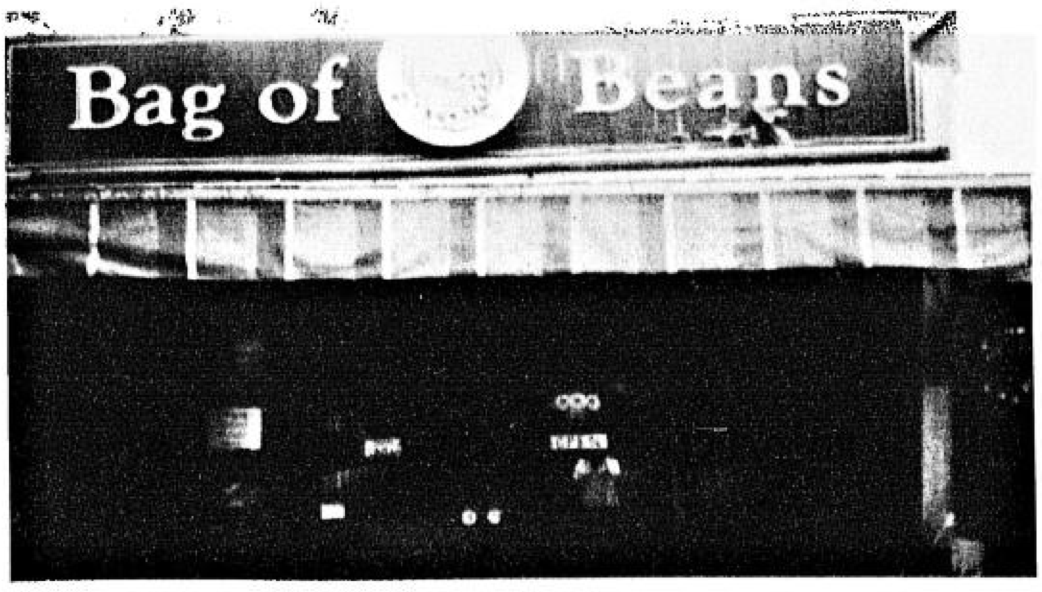
Chato names personalities like Manny Villar and his staff as among her valued guests.

"There are several takeouts. Our bestsellers among foreign guests are steak, kidney and mushroom pie," she added.

Some Chinese have asked Antiquera for a franchise at Greehills in Makati, "I am not yet ready."

Several other people are interested in the Bag of Beans but according to Chato she is not ready to detach from it even if she is being invited by her American boyfriend abroad.

The ingredient of success according to Antiquera: "Don't worry when you start with a small capital. Just go on."



THE PLACE which serves to a growing clientele used to be just a grass-filled lot.

Learn to start a beauty venture

THE BEAUTY and Wellness Business Expo 2004 hopes to be the converging annual event for business and wellness professionals, as well as potential and practicing businessmen in the industry.

Attendees will be able to source the best products at the best prices, learn how to start beauty/wellness entrepreneurial ventures, seek the best services that would help develop existing businesses, be informed on the latest trends and innovations in the world of beauty and wellness, and meet the who's who in the industry and strengthen their network with them.

It is slated on September 24-26, 2004 (Friday to Sunday), at the Megatrade Hall 2, SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City.

It is organized by Image Plus Business Solutions with the Tourism Class 3T4 of University of Santo Tomas as co-organizer, in collaboration with Spa Association of the Philippines, and Philippine International Haircutters Association

BWExpo will showcase business opportunities in beauty and wellness; feature an exhibit of suppliers, manufacturers and service providers; will have seminars and trainings on starting pup a beauty and wellness business, on professionalizing and making your business more profitable and diversifying services you offer; will offer financial assistance from banks and financial institutions; will present demos of the latest fashion trends in beauty and wellness and product launches.

For inquiries, may call 532-2813, 533-6038, 534-4648 or e-mail at imageplusevnts@yahoo.com.

Four men ...

From page B2

The vision was to provide the discerning public with a professionally run salon with the backing of the Toni and Guy academy.

Chot and Cherry were in charge of operations and training the staff. Gonzalez was involved in coming up with the business plan, Cone's wife, Cris, provided inputs in customer service and Coscolluela executed the design for the salon to cater to its upper crust clients.

The happy shareholders just celebrated the first year of Toni and Guy's operations, and they have no regrets.

From their first 6750 branch, the group is looking to sign a franchise agreement to bring Toni and Guy to Alabang and in Fort Bonifacio.

"We consciously run this like a business, not a mom and pop store," Reyes said.

He added that unlike other salons, Toni and Guy is not based on the reputation of certain stylists or makeup artists. It is about keeping with the value of the brand, which is about "educated" hairdressing.

Coscolluela said Toni and Guy was his first foray into designing a salon and it has been fun, and so is attending the board meetings.

The stockholders meet every quarter and Reyes said that it has not been difficult to settle business concerns, helping debunk the notion that friends should never get into business together.

"We never had to put things to a vote. We are able to settle things after discussing. Every one is free to speak his mind, and if it is an operations problem, it is usually Cherry's recommendation that we follow since she knows this business best," Chot said.

The group is looking forward to more years in the business and are proud to say that they are in the salon business.

"Where else can you look at financial statements while having a hot oil treatment," Gonzalez said.

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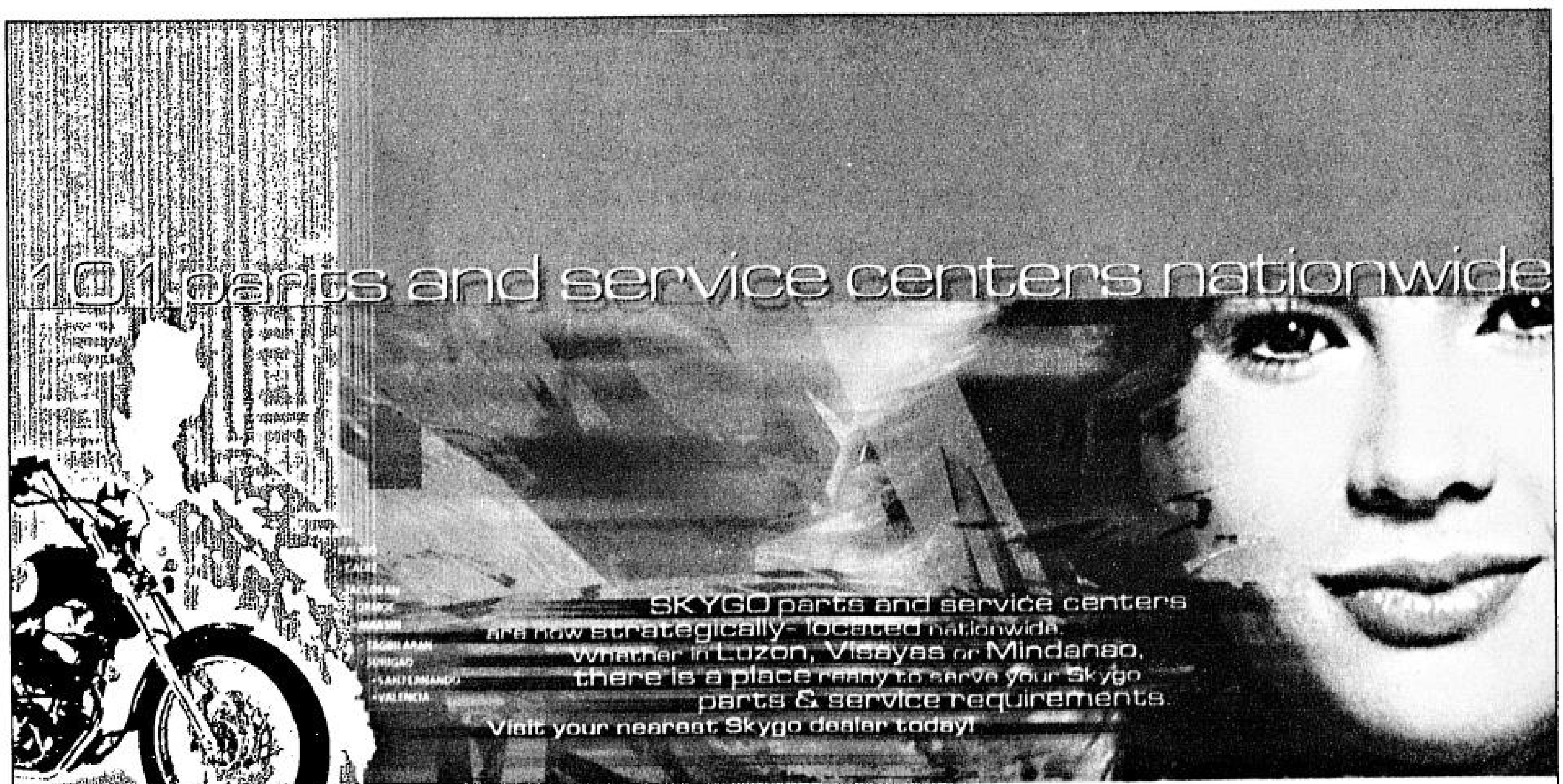

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Editor **Aries Espinosa**

Making more than just a good investment at La Finca

IT PAYS to have an eye for good investment. Miguel Mago is one to put it to good use. A year ago, he purchased a lot in La Finca Farm and Country Resort. When asked what made him opt for the residential farm development in Lipa, Batangas, Mago was quick to say, " I took one look at the place and I knew it is worth every penny."

Mago has been on the lookout for a quality real estate investment until he came across a small advertisement of La Finca in the newspaper, " I already checked out similar developments but nothing compares to what I have seen here. It 's ideal. Flat terrain, cool and quiet surroundings."

Mago, who has yet to build his second home at La Finca, is quite taken by its exclusive, modest community, " It is like being in a small town in the province. Everyone knows everybody. It is small but a closely-knit community."

He added that La Finca fosters good neighborly ties now lacking in most communities in the city, "I love being around people but in my home in Manila, I hardly mingle with my neighbors. I guess it is because I have gotten used to not seeing or talking to them. But here, I get to enjoy my neighbors' company. They are just like family now."

Mago particularly likes it that residents treat each other as equals, "Stature does not really matter here. Everyone is on equal footing. We treat each other as it should be, as friends." This was exemplified when they put their heads together to organize a homeowners' association. Every resident plays a part in the overall management of the subdivision, "We have committees tasked to oversee services, facilities, security and maintenance," shares Mago.

He further relates La Finca is quite manageable because it accommodates very limited number of residents, "I do not see this neighborhood becoming overly crowded unlike other big residential developments. We all get to enjoy our privacy as well as the valued amenities being afforded us."

La Finca offers first-class resort amenities for the sheer enjoyment of its residents and their families. It boasts of infinity and wading pools surrounded by an elegantly designed restaurant along with an al fresco nook, a spa and steam rooms as well as a magnificent view of Mount Malarayat.

Mago prides he could not ask for more at La Finca, "Everything is here. It is a home complete with resort amenities. When I retire I could sit here all day and do nothing. Just enjoy the breezy surroundings."

He however, had one thing to do once he has settled in La Finca, "I would like to tend to my own farm. I already have one in my home province in Bicol. I do not mind having another one here."

Mago admits the investing on real estate means a big chunk off one's hard earned money or savings but the opportunity of lot ownership at La Finca proved most tempting to pass up, "I know it is a good choice. This a great place for a home, very accessible plus it offers amenities comparable to Manila."

Given the extra funds, Mago is likely to put it on another lot at the place he has clearly come to love, "I have no regrets about buying into La Finca because it has everything rolled into one. Again, I must say it is one viable investment."

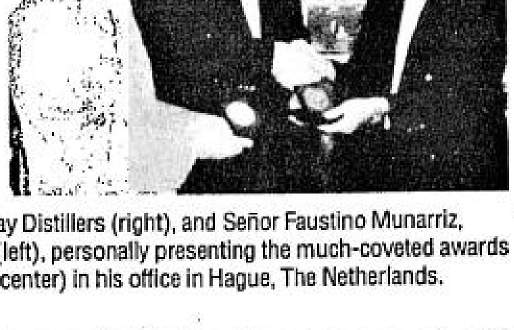
His advice to those looking for a wise investment, "Just see for yourself what La Finca has to offer. But if you ask me, this is one investment that will not only pay off but also, a great place to call home."

For inquiries about La Finca Farm and Country Resort, please call 889-8588, 886-4004 to 06 or 889-9999, or fax at 889-9062 or visit www.lafinca.com.ph.

GRAND REUNION HELD FOR US-BASED ARCHBISHOP

Philippine-based grade school classmates of Los Angeles Archbishop Rev. 'Ochie' Solis held a grand reunion in his honor during his visit to San Jose Nueva Ecija recently. Shown are (from left, foreground) Ligaya Ronquillo, Babes Munsayac-Tordesillas, Lerma Esteban-Reginaldo, Eva Mendoza-Leonardo, Loida Cabute, Armando Salvador, Pete Ramirez; (2nd row, seated, from left): Jingjing Villanueva-Romero, Mona Sajor, Imelda Hizon-Bajador, Bishop Ochie Solis, Marijun Ignacio-Mallari, Tessie Infante-Castillo, Jojie Rueda-Baclig, Lerma Ramirez-Garcia, Violeta Antonio; (standing, from left) Yollie Violago-San Buenaventura, Rosemarie Esteban-San Diego, Chito Sobrepeña, Danny Dantis, Jun Amboy, Rod Gatcheco, Rody Pilapil, Mel Aglibo, Cirilio Pagador, Mateo Lindain, Carlos Llamas, Jaime del Rosario and Igmedio Valdez.

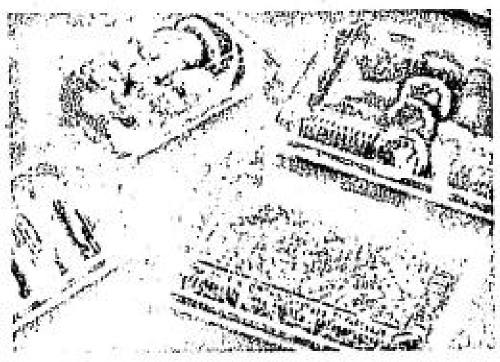
TANDUAY COMMENDED BY AMB. ARGUELLES



Ambassador Romeo Arguelles, our country's envoy to The Netherlands, conveyed his congratulatory notes to Tanduay for winning four International Gold and Silver medals during the recently-concluded 2004 World Selection of Liquors and Spirits of Monde Selection in Brussels, Belgium. Shown are Wilson Young, president of Tanduay Distillers (right), and Señor Faustino Munarriz, Tanduay's master blender (left), personally presenting the much-coveted awards to Ambassador Arguelles (center) in his office in Hague, The Netherlands.

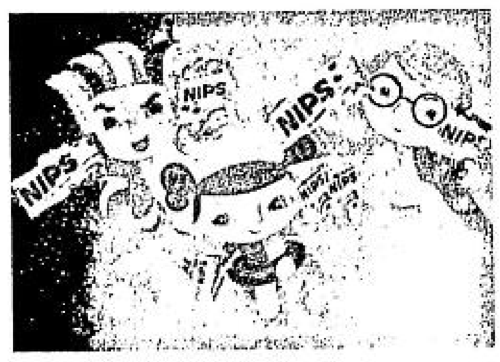
Product FILES

Premium food containers



WORLDFORM Packaging Philippines Inc offers high-quality food grade containers. These durable and attractive plastic containers are crystal clear, microwaveable and 100 percent recyclable. They have a unique anti-fog coat feature that is perfect for display in chillers and refrigerators. Leading bakeries, restaurants, and cafes use Worldform containers for their cakes, sandwiches, meals, salads and cold beverages. For inquiries on Worldform's food and beverage packaging line call 744-6191 or 722-4119.

Nips introduces wee wonders



IN A world where chaos and darkness prevail, hope comes in the form of three new colored superheroes. Meet the Nine Inch Phenomenal Superheroes (Nips), protectors of children and adults alike. This sparkling trio came to Earth as babies aboard golden space pods that slid down three rainbows, to escape the war between their planet NIPtune and the neighboring planet GloomDoom. The Nips make sure that Nipsville is always a safe and colorful world to live in. You don't have to live in Nipsville to meet the Nine Inch Phenomenal Superheroes. You can experience the same burst of color every time you open a pack of Nips chocolate candies, with its rich chocolate covered with crunchy multi-shaded candy coating.

BITS & Clips

PSHBT confab

THE PHILIPPINE Society of Hematology and Blood Transfusion (PSHBT) will hold its 34th Annual Convention on Sept. 8 to 10 at the Edsa Shangri-La Hotel. The theme for this year is "Hematology: Academe to the Bedside". For more details, contact Let Hernandez at 924-3601 loc. 1050 / 0917-373-9535 or email pshbtorg1960@yahoo.com.

'The Maestro & His Music'

CONCERT at the Park opens its "Memorable September" today, at 5 p.m., featuring the UST Wind Orchestra, under the baton of professor Hermie Ranera, with visiting Filipino trumpet player Rommel Reyes as soloist, in a program titled "The Maestro and His Music". Admission is free of charge. The public is cordially invited.

Corporate Meetings Fair '04

MAKATI Shangri-La in cooperation with Meet Inc presents Corporate Meetings Fair 2004, entitled "Meetings Exchange" on Sept. 8 to 9 at the Rizal Ballroom, from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Interested parties may contact Bernni Concepcion of Meet Inc at (632) 436-6580, or Makati Shangri-La's events management department at (632) 813-8888 ext. 7476.

DAP-CQC workshops

THE DAP-CQC (Center for Quality and Competitiveness of the Development Academy of the Philippines) will hold a series of workshops on measuring quality and productivity entitled "Practical Approaches for Measuring Quality and Productivity Performance" on Sept. 7 to 9, 13 to 14, and 28 to 29. For reservations contact Maribeth Sanvictores at 631-2901 loc. 129 or 631-2163.

Canyon Woods turns 7

CANYON Woods Resort Club will be celebrating its 7th anniversary on Sept. 18. Numerous activities have been lined up. All homeowners and members are invited to join the festivities. For more details contact the Canyon Woods membership department at 521-7878.

Ecop leads summit

THE EMPLOYERS Confederation of the Phils (Ecop) and the Personnel Management Association of the Phils (PMAP) wish to inform the public that the Employment and Industrial Relations Summit held last Aug. 23 to 24 at the PTTC was spearheaded and led by Ecop. PMAP was a collaborating organization during the said affair, tasked to conduct and facilitate the Jobs Fair.

VENTURES 7 CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

The Ventures 7 announced their forthcoming Christmas bazaar on Oct. 24 and Dec. 5 in launching ceremonies held at the Mingoy's Restaurant, Fort Bonifacio. In photo are (from left) Fanny Blanco, Lita Gelano, Chit Gohu, Fortune Ledesma, Pilie Aquino, Celine Bautista and Linda Villadelgado. For those interested to join the bazaar, call 810-3307 or 372-3083-84.

Infostructure explores China market

THE CONCLUDED Apec E-Commerce fair held recently in Yantai, China opened windows of opportunities for Infostructure - the country's leading Human Capital Management (HCM) software publisher.

The event which discussed the participating countries' (such as the Philippines, Hong Kong, Malaysia, China, Russia, Indonesia, Korea, Taiwan, Thailand) experiences on information technology particularly on e-commerce, featured High-level forum on E-Commerce, Mayor's Forum on E-Government, CEO Summit, and Investment and Trade Cooperation Activities.

It also highlighted an exhibit, wherein many visitors who went to Infostructure's booth - mostly owners and top managers of big companies - were very much impressed with iBOS/e WebShell's capability in building a company's portal and e-business system without programming. The eForms function of iBOS/e WebShell, particularly its routing capability that eliminates paper and makes form of approval online, has delighted a lot of visitors.

"We have achieved our mission in this fair," said Nilo Poso, CEO and chief software architect of Infostructure. "We have explored a possible resellership deal with a big Singapore-based software distributor that has significant presence in Shanghai, Beijing and several cities in China. Very soon, we will introduce our software products perhaps following the footsteps of Jupiter Systems, another Filipino-owned software firm, which had introduced its software solutions in China about three years ago."

Infostructure has been in the industry for over 12 years now. Its flagship solution, Infostructure HCM, currently powers the HR and payroll departments of more than 30 large companies in the Philippines. Among them are Texas Instruments, McDonald's, Del Monte, Philam Group, Bank of Commerce, CalEnergy, United Laboratories, New Zealand Milk and InfoNXX. The older versions of its software products run in about 175 of Philippines' top 1000 corporations.

Infostructure can be reached at 893-8844/892-3325, you may ask Olivia Grace Alvaran or Juan Paolo Aquino or email infostructure@eenterprise.net or visit www.infostructure.com.ph.

WRS OPERATORS REMINDED TO SECURE PERMIT

Dr. Bayugo, MPH, Ceso IV and director of the Center for Health Development-Metro Manila (CHD-MM) (3rd left in the picture), reiterated during the meeting on the Issuance of Permits to Operate Water Refilling Stations (WRS) the need for businessmen, wanting to venture into the WRS business to first secure, the Initial and Operational Permit at the DOH-CHD-MM office before constructing their water stores. The Water Quality Association Phils (WQAP) is giving free assistance and consultation on how to secure the necessary permits, interested parties may call 454-4666. Others shown in the picture (from left) are: Leoben Calara, sanitary inspector III; Rodel Alegre, planning officer II; director Bayugo; Marilou Sumera, WQAP PRO and chair, educational committee; Maricar Karilimdiliman, sanitary inspector and Sapi secretary; Rogelio Pueblo, Sapi president and Jovito Deauna II, WQAP president.

2-DAY BAZAAR TO BENEFIT ASSUMPTION MISSION SCHOOLS

The Assumption Alumnae Association (HS Class '75 and College Class '79) and the Assumption Family Council will hold the Red Plaid Sale, a pre-Christmas bazaar on Sept. 12 and Oct. 3, at the Hotel Intercontinental in Ayala Ave, Makati. Beneficiaries of the fundraising project are the Assumption mission schools and the faculty development projects of the Family Council. For interested parties, call and look for Everly Aquino at 894-3561/894-3580. Major sponsors include ABS-CBN, Lifestyle Channel and Selecta Ice Cream.

Seaboard-Eastern
INSURAN

SEABOARD-EASTERN TODO SERBISYO

Seaboard-Eastern Insurance Co Inc celebrated recently the first anniversary of its Todo Serbisyo program. Shown during the anniversary celebration are (seated, from left): Jun Banzon Jr., executive vice president; Noemi Sablaya, vice president and chief accountant; Joli Wu, president; Lily Co. chair; Bernie Tan, second senior vice president and comptroller; Lope Cuaresma, first vice president, MIS; (standing, from left): Larry Wu, vice president, marketing; Jimmy Nicolas, first vice president, fire and engineering; Jun Reyes, vice president, internal audit, Vlade Dizon, first vice president, motor

SRO at Tribute to Teachers

SENATOR Francis Pangilinan and outgoing Education secretary Edilberto de Jesus led over 6,000 teachers who gathered at the Philippine International Convention Center to pay tribute to the Filipino teacher in what is dubbed the largest gathering of the academic community.

Participants drove from as far as the Ilocos region in the north, braving floodwaters along the way, and from the Bicol region in the south. Participants from the Visayas and Mindanao also planed in to be counted among the throng.

"A Tribute to Teachers" is an annual event organized by the Bato Balani Foundation, a non-profit organization engaged in teacher training and research on Philippine education issues.

"The PICC's plenary hall overflowed with teachers, and even the spillover rooms adjacent to the hall were filled up," observed William Fernando, executive director of the Foundation. "We were overwhelmed with the turnout and are grateful to all those who attended, despite the threat of getting rained out." A break in the stormy weather cleared just in time for the Saturday event.

Guest speakers from the private sector also extolled the Filipino teacher. PLDT Foundation president Butch Jimenez and businessman and author Francis Kong shared their sentiments and insights on the challenges of being a teacher.

"Tribute" took exception to 4 "role models," exemplary teachers who could serve as an inspiration to other teachers. Dr. Milagros Ibe, dean of Graduate Studies at Miriam College, combines her expertise in English and Mathematics to make math a less intimidating subject for many students.

Dr. Josette Biyo, a recent winner of the Intel Teaching competition and and the first Filipino honored with a planet being named after her, teaches science at the Philippine Science High School in Iloilo. Her innovative approach to teaching has brought her students closer to their environment and the world.

Dr. Tess Calderon, dean of Humanities at the First Asia Institute of Technology and Humanities in Tanauan City, is featured in the Encyclopedia Britannica as the world's fastest reader, with a documented speed of 80,000 words per minute (laboratory conditions). She believes reading is the key to lifelong learning and a well-informed citizenry. She has embarked on a crusade to promote reading among students.

Dr. Onofre Pagsanghan has been teaching at the Ateneo de Manila University's High School department for over half a century and has been the creative force behind its theater arts group, recently renamed the Onofre Pagsanghan Theater. His unflagging energy and creativity has inspired many of his students to pursue their own careers in the same selfless zeal.

Bato Balani Foundation has provided teacher development training to over 80,000 teachers and school administrators. This enduring relationship with educators has been the inspiration to "A Tribute to Teachers." The event is sponsored by the Diwa Learning Systems, the Philippine Daily Inquirer, Microdata and Northgate Technologies.

Mozcom launches business solutions at Stores Asia 2004

MOZCOM showcased their newly-developed NetProfit line of business retail solutions at the recently held 13th National Retail Suppliers Exhibition at Edsa Shangri-La Hotel.

The NetProfit line of next generation Point-of-Sale (POS) Systems boast of being designed from the ground up with Internet and mobile connectivity in mind. Imagine having a POS that the business owner can access from anywhere and anytime using either an Internet web browser or a mobile phone's SMS or WAP browser. Reports are emailed directly or sent via SMS.

Fingerprint-based access forms the core of the POS security features. While supervisors have to do their override transactions with their fingerprints, the same applies for cashiers who must login using the said procedure. This eliminates repudiation of fraudulent transactions.

The power of this program really shines over competing products when it comes to sales data analysis. With its built-in Online Analytical Processing (Olap) engine, decision makers can drill up or down into the details of the transactions. Data may be pivoted based on different dimensions like date, store, product code, product group and others. Aside from standard flat-file reports, the system also generates graphs and charts for easier analysis.

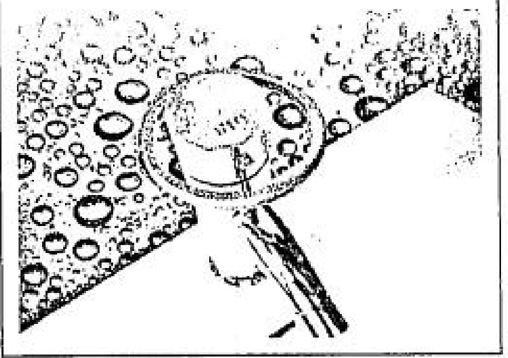
Also part of the NetProfit family is the Biometric TimeKeeper. Using unique fingerprint characteristics, the system ensures fraud-free attendance monitoring. The client/server design allows multiple offices or branches to consolidate their attendance data onto a single server for remote access via web browser or mobile phone.

For more information on Mozcom NetProfit, visit www.mozcom.com/netprofit or call 848-2606.

ProductFILES

'Expressive simplicity, impressive functionality'

DISCOVER the simplicity and functionality of the new Sfera Faucets. Create an easy, stylish bath lifestyle with the F1, F2, and F3 collections. With its clean shapes and sublime body of brass fittings, one can experience the maximum refreshment with water. Simplicity is, after all, an essential element of beauty, thus, the Sfera Series Faucets aims to express simplicity appreciated by those who prefer pure and straightforward shapes. Experience Bathroom Beautiful with HCG, these new products are now available at your nearest HCG distributor and retail outlets.



Kellogg's
FROSTIES
The Heal
Star
Kellogg's

KELLOGG'S JOINS SPIDER-MANIA

Kellogg's Breakfast Cereals, Columbia Pictures, with Magic 89.9 and RX 93.1 invited all kids of all ages for the Spiderman 2 Opening Day Cinema Treat last June 30. Guests and radio call-in winners were given this blockbuster treat as Kellogg's final activity, after the Spiderman Redemption Promo held in leading supermarkets. Actress and celebrity mom Angel Aquino graced the night with her lovely daughters, Iana and Thea. Hard court dads Dondon Hontiveros, Boybits Victoria, Olsen Racela likewise enjoyed this blockbuster treat with their wives and healthy kids. Boom-Boom of the Jaboom twins, also joined in to watch the famous superhero back on screen. It sure was a fun evening; with free samples of Kellogg's given out to the guests after the movies.

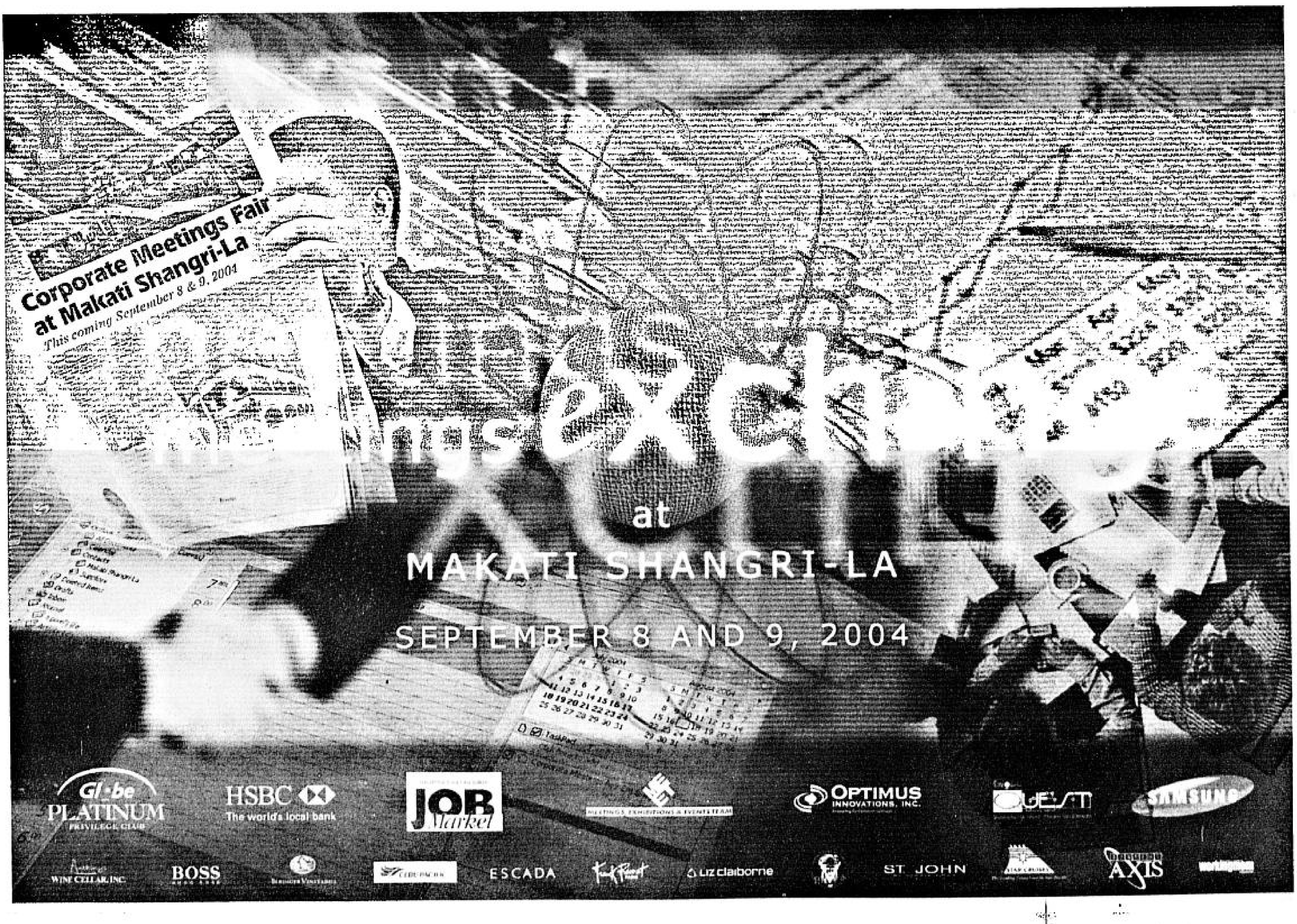
11:30am - 1:0 28 April 2004
MC Plant - Ga Ind Pa
Gen Tri ra vite

UNILEVER FOODS AWARDS SCHOLARS IN CAVITE COMMUNITY

Unilever Foods Philippines (CMC) launched its first community scholarship program near its factory site in Barangay Javalera, Gen. Trias, Cavite. The scholarship program was conceived to help support deserving graduating students from the Javalera Elementary School by providing assistance with their High School education. Its first scholars are Bianca Janine A. Romero (valedictorian) and Bernard Jasper A. Agdon (salutatorian). Bianca and Jasper will be supported by Unilever in their school of their choice. Photo shows Unilever Foods Managing Director Eileen Araneta (center) together with the scholars and their parents during the MOA signing held at the Cavite plant.

CHILI'S HANDS OVER DONATION

Bartenders from Chili's branches Greenbelt 1, Tomas Morato and defending champion Chili's Greenhills recently participated in Chili's 3rd Annual Star Bar Challenge where they were able to raise P50,000 for the Make a Wish Foundation, the largest and most reputable wish-granting organization in the world. Chili's Greenhills's bartenders Mayk Lim and Allan Cunanan, defending champions of the event, took home the grand prize. Shown receiving the donation is (from left) Khalil Bagatsing, Make a Wish Foundation president. Awarding the donation is 2nd from left Chili's marketing head Laine de Jesus and Chili's area director Art Latinazo


Corporate Meetings Fair at Makati Shangri-La
This coming September 8 & 9, 2004
meetings eXchange
at
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SEPTEMBER 8 AND 9, 2004
Globe PLATINUM PRIVILEGE CLUB
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SAMSUNG
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On September 8 and 9, 2004 from 10:00am to 8:00 pm, Makati Shangri-La and MEET Inc. will transform the Rizal Ballroom into the industry's largest merger of trend-setting deals and ideas, featuring a two-day seminar series where industry leaders will be sharing their experiences and expertise. Allow Makati Shangri-La's Events Team to introduce you to their Meetings Promise.

For more information, please contact the Makati Shangri-La Events Management Department at 8138888 extensions 7476 or 7475 or Bernni Concepcion of MEET Inc. at 426 0093 / 436 6580.

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Tel: (632) 813 8888 Fax: (632) 813 5499 E-mail address: slm@shangri-la.com Website: www.shangri-la.com

Makati Shangri-La
MANILA

Mixing natural and synthetic triples engineer's fortune

KIDAPAWAN CITY—Engineer Jose Riga was not surprised when after only three years of business, the assets of the medium-sized enterprise that he helped built here with P8 million in start-up capital almost triple to over P22 million today.

For him the success of Sea Crop, the only organic-synthetic mineral blended fertilizer producer in Central Mindanao today, is moving as he visualized and planned it.

Four months after it was established in 2000, the company only had gross sales of P73,000. As it approached its second year, sales went up to P5 million.

"It was all planned. With the investment of this much, we will get this much on a particular time," Riga says adding that on their third year of operation, their target gross sales was between P25 million and P30 million.

Perhaps Riga, who worked for a chemical company for 12 years before, is overly self-assured or just optimistic but he insist the company is gradually gearing to what he and his colleagues are shaping it to be.

A MOUND of sugarcane bagasse used as one of the base substances of the fertilizer.

PHOTOS BY JEFFREY M. TUPAS, PDI MINDANAO BUREAU

Right now, Riga says, over 40 percent of the banana growers in North Cotabato are being serviced by Sea Crop. Added to this is the fact that the multinational Cavendish banana grower Dole-Stanfilco entered into a partnership with them for the company's operation in Makilala town, while on the other sleeve is also a business link with another multinational agricultural company, Monsanto, which is into corn production.

Product attractiveness

And there are the small-scale farmers, whose number continuously grows, that directly buy their products.

But what made Sea Crop's product attractive not just with small time farmers but also gained the confidence of multinational agricultural corporations?

Sea Crop is a line of agricultural fertilizers that is a blend of sea products and synthetic minerals. One of the sea products added to the blend is sea weed.

Riga, a chemical engineer and a farmer, considers their line of products, each with specific usage on a particular growth of the crop, as the savior of the always flopping production of the farmers.

For many years, Riga said, the Philippines calls itself an agricultural country but failed or refused to open its senses to the fact that the country is too far off when it comes to technology and information, which could have made the lives of many Filipino farmers a lot better.

As the primary mover behind Sea Crop, he personally mastered the concoction or blend that earned the company millions so far.

It turned out that, in most cases, the problem evolved around the farmers themselves as a result of lack of information and appropriate farming technology, he says.

For instance, he says, farmers would often blame the soil's acidity if their production flops.

True, the farmer's ranting about the soil's acidity is valid but what the farmers or even the concerned agencies fail to see is that the soil's acidity is an effect of the farmer's abuse and misuse of farm inputs.

"But I am not saying that fertilizers are bad because they're really not that bad. The problem is the abuse and misuse of the fertilizers. We are an agricultural country but the information given to us are no longer applicable to this date. We are 20 years behind," he says.

GROWER-FINISHER
Manufactured By:
Sea Crop FFTC
Kidapawan City
FPA LICENSE NO.
CONTROL NO.
NET WEIGHT 50 KGS

THE FERTILIZER is now being used in five sites of Stanfilco operations in Makilala.

Lost productivity

As he stresses that synthetic fertilizers are not that bad, studies and experience showed that 60 percent of productivity is lost because of use of inorganic fertilizers.

Their product, he says, is made up of 60 percent wastes—chicken dung, sugar mill products, and sea crops.

These components, he says, allow the soil to restore its condition.

He says he did not go away from the usual synthetic materials because of its proven benefits to the crops.

However, he adds, farmers should understand that fertilizers should be applied based on the specific needs of the crops.

"We need fertilizers that are crop specific and weather specific ... We have to address the problem but have to admit too that synthetic fertilizers are beneficial," he says.

Sea Crop was born, Riga says, because of that inner feeling of concern to the thousands of farmers who do not have access to appropriate technology and information.

"My belief is that we could introduce change in farming. With the technology that we are employing now, I could assure people that we can produce bananas better than other provinces in terms of quality and nutrition. We can produce higher grade banana with longer shelf-life," he says.

The products are also affordable. For instance a farmer could buy a bag of urea at P680 but it's counterpart in the Sea Crop line of products is only P450 per bag.

For Riga, addressing the farmers' problem properly does not only mean "linking" with them but also physically being with them as they conduct farm demonstrations and trainings, even spending millions for the activities and virtually getting nothing in return.

The fertilizer is now being used in five sites of Stanfilco operations in Makilala. In the provinces of North Cotabato and Davao del Sur alone, the company is supplying more than 60 metric tons of sea crop products every month.

Recently, Riga closed a P9-million deal with another agricultural company in Digos City while maintaining a partnership with a sugarcane corporation in Bukidnon.

"The increase of production and rise in a number of farmer buyers are only two of the barometers that indicated the success and level of efficacy of the products," Riga says.

While admitting that they did not get the support of concerned agencies like the Department of Agriculture, Sea Crop was able to secure assistance from the Department of Trade and Industry.

Ferdinand Cabiles, senior trade and industries development specialist, says they supported Sea Crop because of its capacity to manufacture and process raw materials and convert it to higher value products.

"Utilization of local raw materials would lead to employment generation at the point of the supply of the raw materials would also create employment at the level of the conversion, processing and marketing," he says.

"If we support processing and manufacturing we also create employment along the line—from the supply to the conversion of the raw materials and marketing of the final product. So if we create employment, we provide income and then income would translate into spending—buying more goods so there will be more economic activity in the area," Cabiles says.

Around 50 people, most of them former armed combatants of the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF), are employed by Sea Crop as raw material gatherers.

As Sea Crop's success become more and more evident, Riga says expansion to other areas of the country is now being considered. *Jeffrey M. Tupas, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

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Quiet economic revolution sweeping Cordillera

By Maurice Malanes
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

(First of two parts)

MABUHAY ABRA ABRA

MANY Abra villagers are putting their savings together to set up profitable businesses.

MALIBCONG, Abra—A quiet economic revolution, which relies not on the barrels of guns, is sweeping Cordillera's hinterlands such as this upland hometown of two famous rebels.

A seven-hour rough road drive from Abra's provincial capital of Bangued, this remotest hinterland town of Abra is the birthplace of the late rebel priest Conrado Balweg and his ideological enemy and younger brother, Jovencio of the New People's Army, armed wing of the Communist Party of the Philippines.

For political differences, Father Balweg in 1986 left his comrades in the NPA and helped form the Cordillera People's Liberation Army or CPLA, which has since made peace with the government.

While seeking to reunite with his family here after almost 13 years of absence, Balweg in December 1999 was killed by his former comrades in the NPA.

Jovencio, on the other hand, has remained with the NPA, helping fight for what is now the longest Maoist guerrilla insurgency in Southeast Asia.

But while the CPLA and the NPA continue to fight for what they believe are noble causes worth dying for, another revolution, which relies on the color of money, is sweeping this birthplace of the Balwegs.

This other brand of revolution is a small savings and loans financing system inspired by Bangladesh's Grameen or village banks.

Introduced by personnel of the Central Cordillera Agricultural Program or Cecap, the system has taught and encouraged villagers to save and later borrow some amount for their basic and emergency needs such as tuition for children, hospital bills, and food items.

Pooled savings and the loans that members could avail of also paved the way for village-based businesses such as small lending, livestock raising and consumer stores.

A European Union and Department of Agriculture joint project, Cecap's second phase began in 1996 and ended in July this year. But Cecap's personnel, who introduced the small savings and loans financing system, are confident the seeds they had sown will continue to germinate and bear fruit even after Cecap ended.

P10-weekly savings

Former Cecap rural finance personnel see promise in the small savings and loans groups (SSLG), which they helped organize in Malibcong's Duldulao village and which eventually metamorphosed into a multi-purpose cooperative.

The thriving Duldulao Multipurpose Cooperative started small. It began with the basic unit of small rural financing system called savings and loans group or SLG, which is composed of five to 15 members.

Since February 1998, Cecap had helped form six SLGs in Duldulao, which had 33 members. Depending on a group's consensus, a member of each SLG was required to save P10 weekly, and after 12 weeks, he or she could loan P200 to P250 at 5 percent monthly interest.

Other SLGs agreed that each member would save P25 each week and could loan P500 after 12 weeks. But most members of the six SLGs eventually reckoned that if they relied solely on their P10 or P25 weekly savings, they could not grow as fast as they would like to. They also factored in the isolation of their village.

During the rainy and typhoon months from July to October, the Abra River and its major tributaries swell, making it impossible for passenger jeeps to travel from Malibcong to Bangued.

The Abra River, which becomes almost a kilometer wide during continuous heavy downpour, separates Malibcong and other upper Abra towns from Bangued, the only commercial center in the province.

To cross the bridgeless Abra River, vehicles are transported on steel rafts. But the rafts are helpful only during summer when the river is small and gentle.

So like ants and bees, Malibcong and other upland folk would store as much basic goods such as salt, cooking oil, matches, some dried fish and canned goods during summer when they could travel to Bangued.

But given their small income, they could only store so much. Not even the three existing sari-sari or variety stores in the village could provide all the basic needs of residents.

Given all these factors, most members of the six SLGs in Duldulao village resolved it was time for them to put up their own consumer store.

In June 2000, 25 members of the various SLGs or savings and loans groups pooled an initial capital of P15,000 and put up what they called the Duldulao Consumers Group or DCG, which began selling basic commodities at reasonable prices.

In no time, neighboring villagers outside Duldulao would come to buy at DCG's variety store. Besides its consumer store, the DCG continued its emergency loan services, extending to each member at least P1,000 in loan with 2 percent monthly interest.

Members usually avail of this loan for emergency needs such as tuition for children, medicines, fertilizers and seeds to plant. The DCG consumer store continued to grow and was eventually converted into what is now called the Duldulao Multi-purpose Cooperative or DMPC, which was officially registered with the Cooperative Development Authority on Aug. 5, 2003.

"Our cooperative is now our fallback, especially during the typhoon months," says Henry Dayaoen, a farmer and current manager of the cooperative.

Growing slowly but surely, the DMPC reported assets of P196,348 in September 2003. The cooperative's total asset could now run to more than P200,000, said cooperative treasurer Henry de la Cruz when the INQUIRER and some Cecap personnel visited the cooperative last summer.

Cultural factor

The cooperative's phenomenal success could be attributed largely to the community folk's cultural value of *parnuayen* or cooperation and unity, says Artemio Salimbay, the cooperative's board chairman.

He also cites the community's indigenous value of *buangayen*, which refers to the Tinggian folk's tenacity, perseverance and persistence to rise above their current status also through their cooperative effort.

"Through our cooperative, we can show to the rest of the world that our tradition of unity and cooperation can make a difference in our own lives," says Salimbay.

Earlier, people in Duldulao had generally lost trust in building cooperatives after two cooperatives in a neighboring village were doing well at first and eventually went bankrupt.

"But we seek to learn from their failures," says Salimbay.

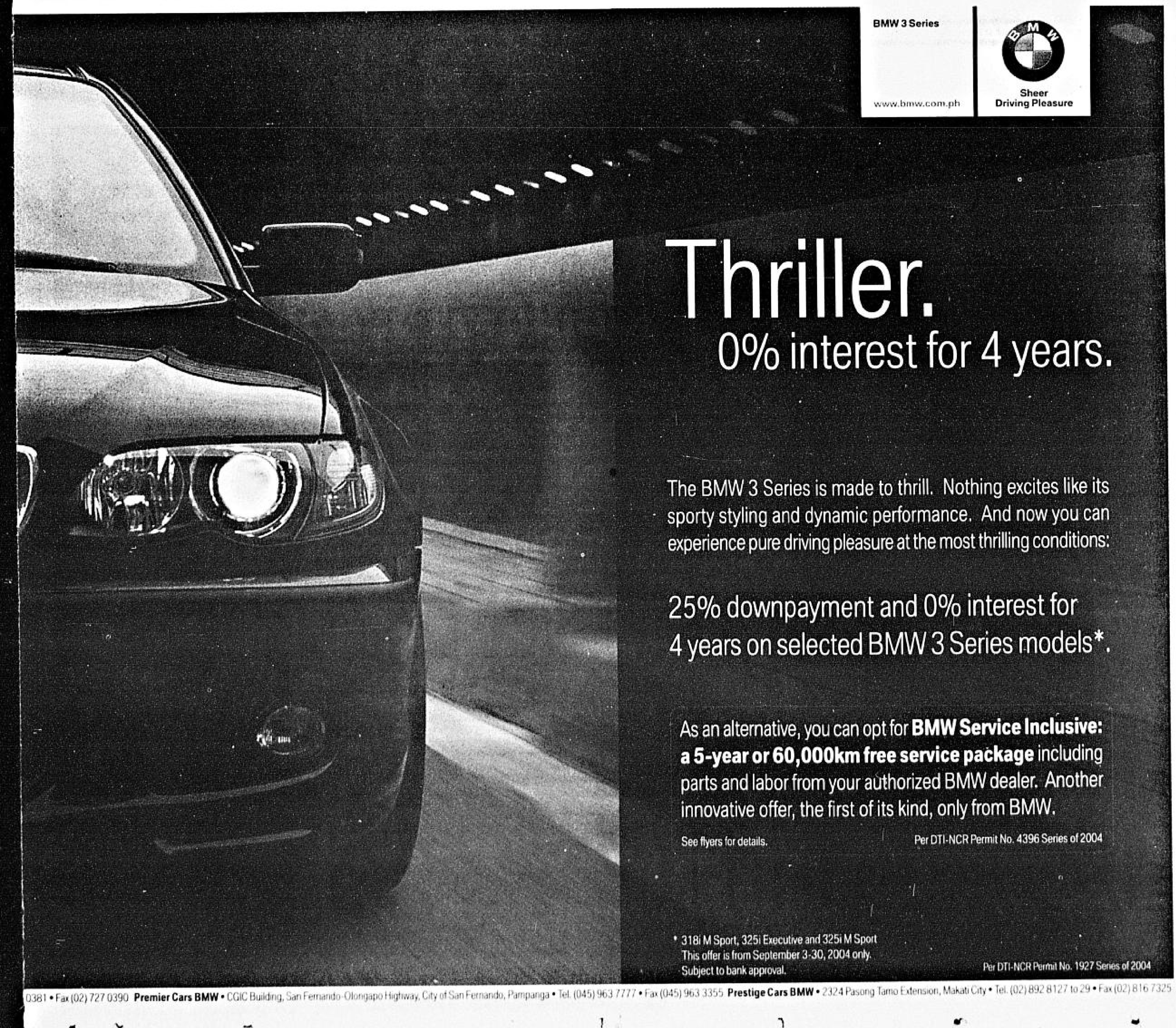
Leaders and members of the cooperative have every reason to be upbeat about the future.

"As long as we strictly follow, review and update our cooperative policies, there is every reason for us to grow and prosper," says board director Aldrin Abansi as he stresses on a policy of transparency to ensure checks and balances within the cooperative.

Another secret, says vice chair Biatriz Molina, is continuing education about managing cooperatives and learning skills such as bookkeeping and simple accounting.

All simple farmers raising rice, vegetables and backyard livestock and poultry, DMPC members and leaders are optimistic that their cooperative can become a millionaire in due time. "This is not impossible given the right management and the right attitude and discipline of both officers and members, not to mention our culture of unity and cooperation as a people," says Dayaoen.

The Duldulao cooperative is just one of the many "success stories" of seemingly hopeless and powerless hinterland folk, who, if given the opportunity, can pool their small money and establish enterprises such as a cooperative to help free them from the poverty rut.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Local 256, 257, 258, and 340
Fax number 645-4535 and 646-9556

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ANNOUNCEMENT FOR SCHOOL YEAR 2005-2006

Applications for First Year are now being accepted. Deadline for Submission of Application forms and Certified Xeroxed Copies of Entrance Credentials is on December 15, 2004. Entrance Exam will be on January 16, 2005.

Entrance Scholarship are available to deserving students. For more information, write, call or e-mail inquiry to:

THE REGISTRAR
St. Luke's College of Medicine-William H. Quasha Memorial
Sta. Ignaciana St., Cathedral Heights, Quezon City
Tel. No. 7277610 or E-mail: registrar_sicm@stluke.com.ph
http://www.stlukesmedcollege.edu.ph/or mariebj27@yahoo.com

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- Curriculum Vitae
- Transcript of grades
- Sample of written work

Submit applications to:
* Suite 604 Hermonde Plaza
* 21 San Miguel Ave. * Ortigas Central Business District *
* Pasig City * Metro Manila * Philippines *

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

This is to inform the public that International Personnel Consultants, Inc., is filling an application for re-issuance of license with the POEA. The directors & officers are listed below.

International Personnel Consultants

1903 Jollibee Plaza, Emerald Ave., Ortigas Centre, Pasig 0632-6872247 to 49; Fax: 0632-6872246 Web: <http://www.ipc.com.ph/> www.ipc.com.ph

Directors & Officers

Jennifer G. Joaquin - President	Joseph J. Reynolds-Director
Corazon S. Reynolds - Incorporator	Francisco E. Ramirez - Sec./Admin.
Maureen B. Regua-Div.Hd.-Nurses	Evangeline S. Fajardo-Incorporator
Marisa E Murillo-Tres/Acctng. Officer.	Yerry O. Gonzales - Acc. Asst.
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Rm. 301 3/F Central Bldg.
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- Overseas employment in casino is preferred;
- Good public and employee relations;
- Strong leadership;
- Good oral and written communication skills;
- Trustworthy, reliable person whose honesty and integrity is beyond doubt;
- Should consider position as part of overall team effort and be able to liaise with equals and subordinates to ensure that gaming standards are strictly maintained;
- Good team player
- Knowledge in Mandarin language is an advantage.

JUNIOR SURVEILLANCE OFFICER

QUALIFICATIONS:

- Preferably with one to two years Casino related experience with minimum of one year actual dealing (table games) experience and/or working knowledge in Casino Treasury;
- College graduate of any course;
- Knowledge of conducting investigations and report writing is an advantage;
- Keen observer;
- Strong analytical ability;
- Good oral and written communication skills;
- Computer literate;
- Can work under pressure;
- Patient and honest;
- Overseas exposure is an advantage.

VIP SERVICES COORDINATOR

QUALIFICATIONS:

- College graduate of any course;
- Fluent in Mandarin, Cantonese and/or Korean languages;
- At least one (1) year experience in customer service;
- With excellent written and oral communication skills;
- Strong interpersonal skills;
- Patient and flexible;
- Prepared to work overtime when required.

Residents of Olongapo, Zambales, Bataan, Pampanga and/or other areas in Central Luzon are preferred. Interested applicants may send/submit their resumés/bio-data with supporting documents and recent 2x2 photo to:

LEGEND INTERNATIONAL RESORTS LIMITED
Recruitment & Training Office
2F Oak Bldg., Legenda Suites, Cubi Point,
Subic Bay Freeport Zone, Olongapo City 2200
Fax No. (02) 813-5670
Email Address: hrd@legendanet.com

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for seafood export processing plant

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- Good interpersonal relations
- Computer skills an advantage
- Willing to travel and be deployed on assignments

☐ **Applicants from General Santos City, Davao City, all seafood producing regions, including Manila, are welcome.** Interview schedules & venues for shortlisted candidates will be advised at a later date and will be conducted at their respective provinces.

☐ Interested parties can send their applications with resumé/biodata and passport size photos by post or via e-mail to IanHFC:

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Philippine Amusement & Gaming Corporation
Responding Through Responsible Gaming

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID
ITB NO.: 08-03-2004

The Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation (PAGCOR) is inviting all interested bidders in its forthcoming public bidding for the project stated hereunder:

Project : One (1) lot Janitorial Service for CF-Angeles
Required Personnel: 57 janitors
Approved Budget : Seven Million Five Hundred Twenty Seven Thousand Four Hundred Twenty Six Pesos & 80/100
(P 7,527,426.84)
Source of Funds : Internally Funded

Only contractors duly registered with PAGCOR may be allowed to participate in the bidding. Unregistered contractors must register at the Suppliers Registration & Evaluation Section (SRES), Procurement & Property Department (PPD), 2nd Floor PAGCOR House, 1330 Roxas Blvd., Ermita, Manila, Tel. No. 526-0573 or at the Branch Procurement and Property Office, CF-Angeles, Balibago, Angeles City (045) 892-5073-74 / 625-7597.

The detailed project particulars and instructions to bidders are discussed in the **Bid Documents** available for issuance **from August 25, 2004 to September 20, 2004** at the BAC Secretariat, Procurement and Property Office, Corporate Office or at the Branch Procurement and Property Office, CF-Angeles upon payment of a non-refundable fee of ***One Thousand Pesos (Php 1,000.00)***. In order to secure the documents, bidders should present the Official Receipt issued by our Cashier to the BAC Secretary handling the project.

Pre-Bid Conference : **September 7, 2004** (2:00 pm)
Submission of Bids : **September 21, 2004** (2:00 pm)
Opening of Bids : **September 21, 2004** (2:00 pm onwards)

***VENUE:* Meeting Room, Mezzanine, Casino Filipino-Angeles, Balibago, Angeles City**

PAGCOR has the right to disqualify any prospective bidder if found that they have submitted falsified documents and/or information, and the right to accept or reject any or all bids, to annul the bidding process, to waive any defects or formalities found therein and to accept such bid or a part thereof as may be deemed most advantageous to PAGCOR, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

PAGCOR reserves the right to reject any and all bids, declare a failure of bidding, or not award the contract if there is *prima facie* evidence of collusion between appropriate public officers or employees of the agency, or between the BBAC and any of the bidders, or if the collusion is between or among the bidders themselves, or between a bidder and a third party, including any act which restricts, suppresses or nullifies or tends to restrict, suppress or nullify competition, or if the BBAC is found to have failed to follow the prescribed bidding procedures, or for any justifiable and reasonable ground where the award of the contract will not redound to the benefit of the government (R.A. 9184, Sec. 41).

Please address all communications to the Branch Bids and Awards Committee, Casino Filipino-Angeles, Balibago, Angeles City.

(Sgd.) **ERLINDA M. YENKO**
Chairperson, BBAC-Angeles

(PDI--August 29 & Sept. 5, 2004)

PHILIPPINE HEART CENTER
East Avenue, Quezon City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY & TO BID

Interested suppliers/dealers are invited to apply and bid for: **2 lots supply and installation of new passenger elevators.**

The approved **budget** for this bidding is **P5.0 million.**

The winning bidder shall deliver the requirements within ninety (90) calendar days upon signing of contract.

Interested bidders must not be related to the head of the procuring entity or any member of the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) or BAC Secretariat either by consanguinity or affinity up to the third civil degree.

Prospective bidders may secure eligibility requirements and bid documents from the **BAC Secretariat office, 8th Flr., MAB, PHC, East Ave., Quezon City** after payment of a non-refundable bidding fee of **five thousand (P5,000.00) pesos.** For any inquiry, please call BAC Secretariat Office at Tel. No. 925-24-01 loc. 3888 ask for Ms. Noemi Nocasa.

I. **PRE-BID CONFERENCE**
The pre-bid conference shall be on 14 September 2004 at 1:30 p.m., Pacemaker Room, Basement, MAB, PHC, East Ave., Quezon City.

II. **SUBMISSION OF ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS**
The legal requirements for eligibility of prospective bidders must be personally submitted by the duly authorized representative on 21 September 2004, 4:00 p.m., BAC Secretariat Office, 8th Floor, MAB, PHC, East Ave., Quezon City.

III. **OPENING OF BIDS**
Bids of eligible bidders will be accepted and opened in the presence of bidders or their representatives on 5 October 2004, at 1:30 p.m., Pacemaker Room, Basement, MAB, PHC, East Ave., Quezon City.

The BAC reserves the right to reject any and all bids waive any defects or informalities therein, or accept any bid/s or offer/s which it may consider advantageous and beneficial to the government.,

3 September 2004

(Sgd.) **MARCIANO F. GATDULA**
Vice Chairman, BAC

(PDI–Sept. 5 & 12, 2004)

PLAREB real estate seminar

The PARANAQUE-Las Pinas-Alabang Realtors Board (Plareb), the largest constituent board of the Philippine Association of Realtors Board Inc (Pareb), and consistent producer of topnotchers for the Real Estate Brokers licensure exams will conduct its 42nd Comprehensive Real Estate Seminar and Review for Brokers exams. Monday, Wednesday and Friday 6 to 9 p.m. starting Oct. 20 to Nov. 5 at Max's Restaurant, Sucat Road (across Park and Shop midway McDonald and SSH), Paranaque City. Topics covered are in accordance with the recommendations of the BTRCP for passing the government licensure examination for real estate brokers to be held on Nov. 28. The seminar covers various topics relevant to real estate practice such as Licensing Regulations for Realty Service Practice; Real Estate Brokerage Principles and Practice; The Condominium Concept; Subdivision Laws and Procedures; Joint Ventures Agreements; Real Estate Taxation, Financing and Appraisal; Fundamental of Property Ownership; Urban and Agrarian Reform; Contract Documentation and Registration; Legal Aspects of Sale, Mortgage, Lease; Real Estate Mathematics and General Review on Past Examination Questions. Lecturer-reviewer is Ruben B. Palacio, Jr., lawyer, licensed real estate broker, appraiser and consultant. Interested parties may contact Lita or Fely at the Plareb office with tel. nos. 825-0942/43 or CP 0918-939-1317 or at 3A Acacia, Westmont Village Condominium, Sucat Road, Paranaque City (across Liana's Supermarket or at Goldhouse Realty Corporation, Unit K, Aguirre corner Tirona, BF Homes, Paranaque City with tel. no. 807-5081 and #59 Dona Soledad Avenue, Better Living Subd. Paranaque City with tel. no. 823-7668.

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INSCRIPTION DES CANADIENS

Note aux Canadiens

Tous les citoyens canadiens résidant aux Philippines sont invités à s'inscrire auprès du service consulaire de l'Ambassade du Canada. Cette information est utile en cas d'urgence. L'information est confidentielle et ne peut être divulguée à un tiers parti, incluant les autres Ministères gouvernementaux.

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Canada

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
CENTRAL OFFICE BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
Bldg. #6, San Lazaro Compound,
Rizal Avenue, Sta. Cruz, 1003, Manila, Philippines
Tel. no. (632) 743-83-01 Local 1601; Web address: www.doh.gov.ph

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

1. The Department of Health (DOH) received funding from the Commission of Information and Communication Technology for the development of the Drug Test operation and Management Information System wherein twenty seven million and six hundred thousand pesos (P27,600,000) has been apportioned as the approved budget of contract (ABC).
2. Major components of the project includes: system and process reengineering, system and software development, establishment of the central database storage and back-up facility, and systems implementation and maintenance.
3. The DOH hereby invites firms with the expertise and at least 3 years experience relevant to the project requirements to apply for eligibility and for shortlisting. Interested bidders may download requirements from the DOH website or inspect the bid documents starting September 8, 2004, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Further information may be obtained from the Central Office Bids and Awards Committee (COBAC) Secretariat namely, Ms. Coney Liberan/Ms. Debbie Rabi at 1/F Building 6, DOH, San Lazaro Compound, Sta. Cruz Manila, Tel. No. 743-8301 local 1214 or 1601 respectively or send an email to **csliberan@co.doh.gov.ph** or facsimile to 711-6061/711-8273.
4. A complete set of bid documents may be purchased by interested bidders upon submission of a letter of intent and upon payment of *non-refundable fee* of ten thousand pesos (PhP10,000) pesos. Deadline for submission of a letter of intent and eligibility & shortlisting requirements is on September 24, 2004 at 10:00 a.m. at the COBAC Conference Room.
5. A pre-bid conference will be held on September 29, 2004 at 9:00 am at the COBAC Conference Room. Only shortlisted consultant will be invited to submit a proposal not later than October 25, 2004. The proposal shall be evaluated using a quality-cost based procedure at 60/40 weight in favor of technical. Only technical proposal with 75% rating will be considered for further evaluation. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security valid for ninety (90) days equivalent to 1% of the ABC if in the form of certified check, cashier's check, manager's check, bank draft confirmed by a reputable local bank or 1.5% if in the form for a bank guarantee confirmed by a reputable local bank.

The Department of Health reserves the right to accept or reject any bid and to annul the bidding process and/or reject all bids at any time prior to award of contract without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders or any obligation to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the grounds to the Department of Health.

By Authority of the Secretary of Health:
(Sgd.) **ALEXANDER A. PADILLA**
Undersecretary of Health
Chairperson, COBAC

(PDI – September 5 & 12, 2004)

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41st PMAP Annual Conference

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September 29
to
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REGISTRATION OF CANADIANS

Notice to Canadians

Canadian citizens residing in the Philippines are invited to register with the Consular Section of the Canadian Embassy. This information is useful in cases of emergencies. It is confidential and cannot be given to third parties, including other Government Departments.

Registration may be made in person, by mail, by fax or on-line through the Canadian Embassy website at: www.manila.gc.ca

It is important that registration records be up-to-date. If you change your address or telephone number, or if you leave the country, please inform the Consular Section of the Embassy.

Canadian Embassy

Level 8, Tower 2
RCBC Plaza
6819 Ayala Avenue
Makati City 1200
P. O. Box 2098
Tel.: 857-9000

Consular Hours

Monday to Thursday
9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
and 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Friday
9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

www.manila.gc.ca

Canada

Trans Co

NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION
South Luzon Operation & Maintenance

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID
AD NO. TRANSCO 2004-009C

The National Transmission Corporation, South Luzon O&M Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) wishes to invite interested parties to apply for eligibility and to bid on the items listed below:

DATE OF BIDDING: SEPTEMBER 29, 2004; 1:30 PM

SCHEDULE		ITEM DESCRIPTION	PR NUMBER	APPROVED BUDGET
A1	2 UNITS	SF6 POWER CIRCUIT BREAKER	3CNA04-121	P 6,000,000.00
A2	1 LOT	CAMERA, CCTV MONITORS AND 7 OTHERS FOR SURVEILLANCE	3SL-04-062	P 3,924,000.00

NOTE: A Pre-Bidding Conference for Schedules A1 and A2 will be held on September 17, 2004; 1:30PM at the OAVP Conference Room.

Complete sets of Application Form for Eligibility and Bid Documents may be obtained from the Office of the Manager, Administration Division, SLO&M, San Vicente, Biñan, Laguna, upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P500.00 per schedule starting **September 07, 2004.** No bid documents will be issued on the date of bidding.

Bids will be received at the Conference Room (OAVP), Transco-SL O&M, San Vicente, Biñan, Laguna until the specified date and time of bidding above after which said bids will be opened in the presence of attending bidders.

Prospective Bidders shall signify conformance to bidding terms and conditions as required and shall ensure the same through proper submission/execution. The procurement rules and regulations used in this transaction shall be in accordance with the implementing rules and regulations of "R.A. 9184".

The Bidder shall furnish as part of his bid, a bid security in the amount equivalent to at least 1% of the approved budget in the form of Cash, Manager's/Cashier's Check, Certified Check, Bank Draft, or 1.5% of the approved budget in the form of Bank Guarantee, or 2.5% of the approved budget in the form of Surety Bond, penal and callable on demand issued by GSIS or a Surety or Insurance Company accredited by the Office of the Insurance Commission.

The Corporation reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at anytime prior to award of contract, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders or any obligations to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the grounds for the basis of such action.

TRANSCO-South Luzon's other requirements are posted at the DBM Website: www.procurementservice.net and at the TRANSCO Website: www.transco.ph

(Sgd.) **G. R. LISTANO**
Chairman-BAC
SL O&M

(PDI--September 5, 2004)

A beautiful way to do your business

Beauty & Wellness BUSINESS EXPO 2004

September 24-26, 2004
Megatrade Hall 2, Building B, Level 5
Megamall, Mandaluyong City

Beauty & Wellness Business Expo 2004 is an all business opportunities exhibit where one can:

- Look for business opportunities available.
- Source for best products, equipment, machines, fixtures at its best price;
- Attend and learn a seminar on:
  - Salon Management: How to Systematize Your Salon Operations
  - How to Set-up and Manage a Spa Business
  - How to Franchise Beauty & Wellness Business
- Seek for best services to further develop your business portfolio;
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MANILA

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MARIKINA

Bnew 4BR 3TB 2.8M 9487112

PARANAQUE

B/N/4BR/3TB/Attic/Grg/P3M 0917-8210866/8202243/8253416

Marcelo Green 3BR 2TB FA160m² LA404m² P4.5M Baby T-8212525

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4 Bd Rm, 4 TB Maid & Driver
Qtrs. Carport for 2 Cars
7.1M Neg Assume Mortgage
Lot Area 209 sq.m.
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Call 0917-5517161
Ask for John

RIZAL

Binangonan
P2.1M FA132m² LA60m² 3br 2tb
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LAGUNA

BINAN 400T CP (0927)6438231

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MAKATI

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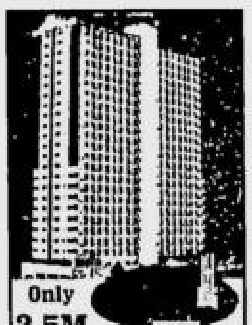
REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

CONDO/TWNHSE

QUEZON CITY



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QUEZON CITY

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VARIED AREAS

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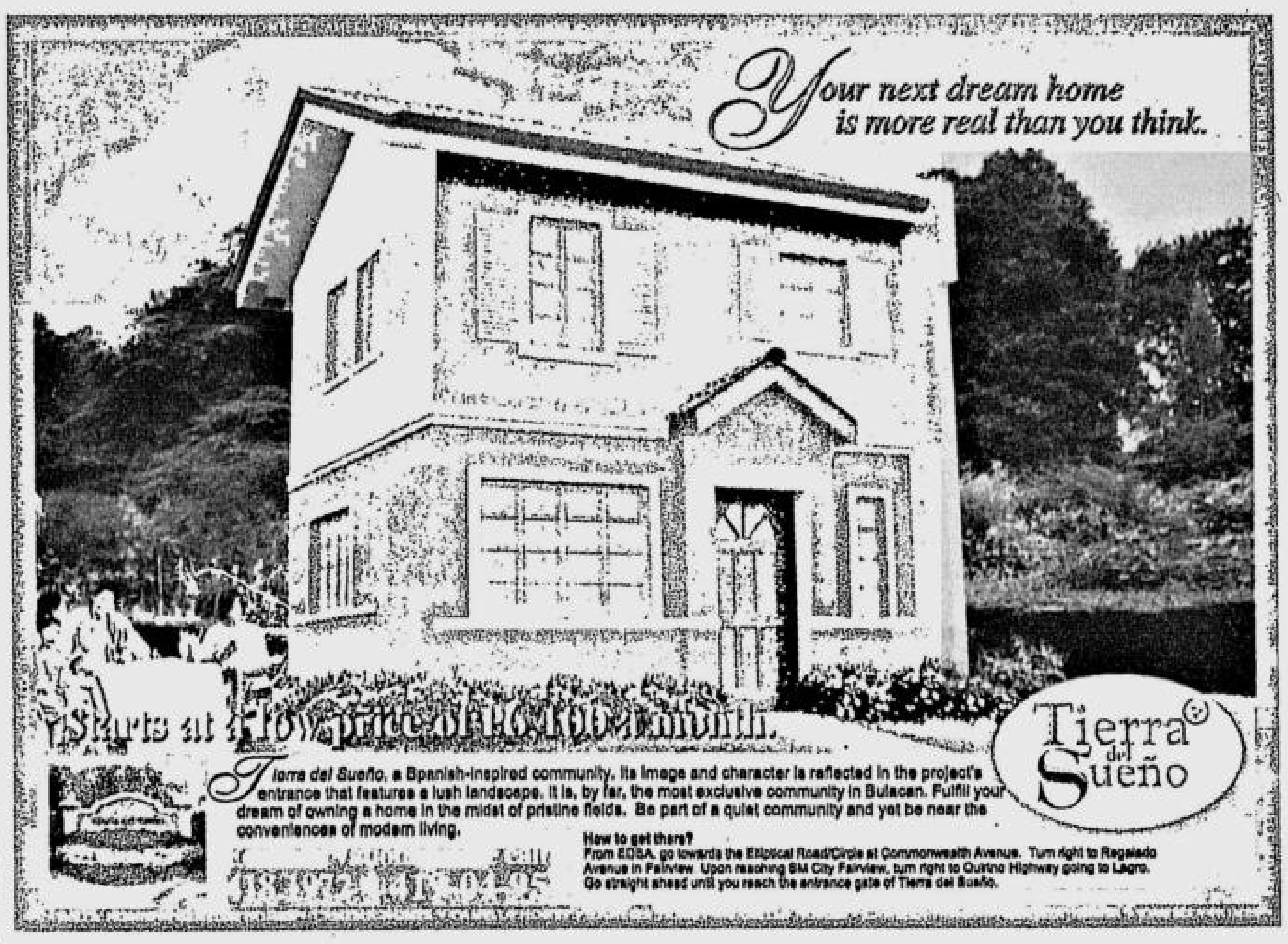
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CONDO/TWNHSE

VARIOUS AREAS

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NEW CONDO, VALENCIA HILLS
STUDIO, 2BR, 3BR, w/pkg 3M up!
20%DP N. Domingo St. QC
and BAY GARDENS Roxas Blvd
2BR, 3BR, w/pkg 6M up 20% DP
T-7508291/8108313/0927-7996662

APARTMENT

MANILA

REPOSO Sta Mesa 0917-8493699

MANDALUYONG

U/D 2BR nr Boni 600K 5788275

QUEZON CITY

KAMUNING 5Door 240m²
P7.5M 9250993 / 8680004

LOT

KALOOCAN

Rainbow Village 5 LA 216m² P3,473/m² Vic 8903461 loc 25

LAS PINAS

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MAKATI

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MANILA

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Mr. Mateo

PARANAQUE

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PASIG

METROVILLE SUBD LA333m² P4,054/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

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QUEZON CITY

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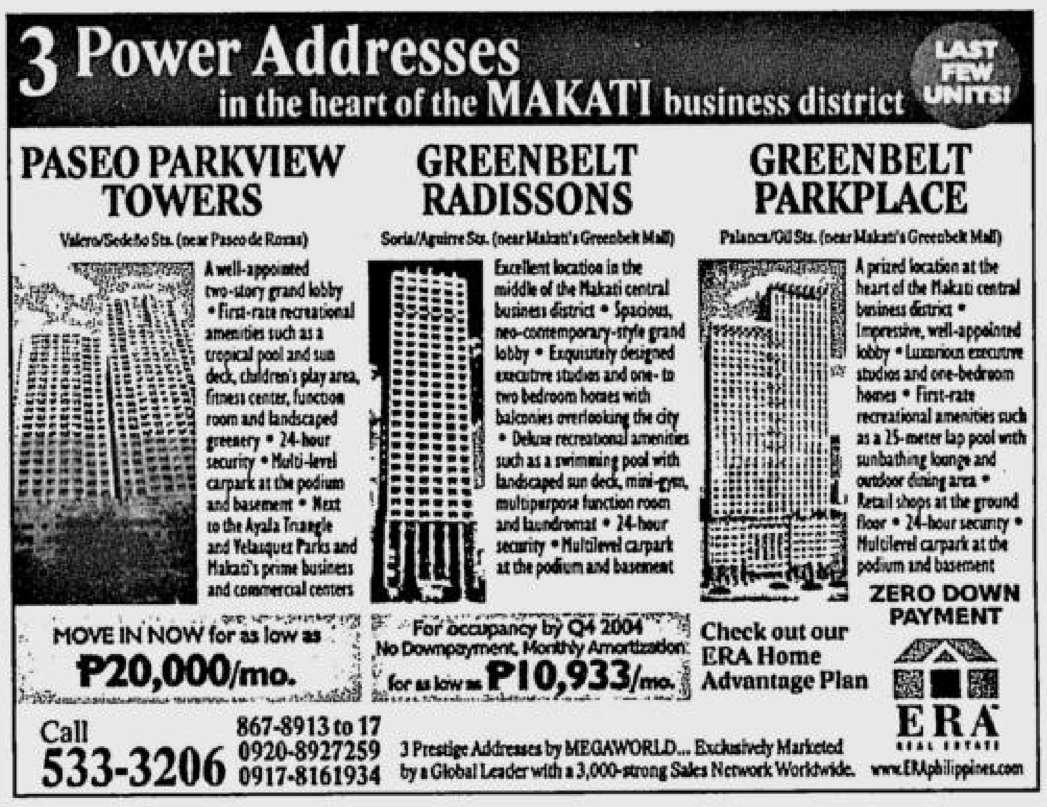
0917-3708160 • 0918-5461974

CUBAO 1150M² 646-3731

PROVINCIAL

LOT, DIHO-1 L5 B11 150sqm Buhangin Hway Davao City T-0822345771 / 09177058520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OTHER PROVINCIAL

LOT/MBT - PPANGA 7152441

BATANGAS

RANCHO VISTA SUBD LA613m2 P2,248/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

BULACAN

SAN MIGUEL BUL 4000m² P180/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

CAVITE

DON BOSCO EXEC HTS LA128m2 P2,900/m2 Vic 8903461 loc 27

PARKPLACE SUBD LA120m² P5,750/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

RUSH Coastal Bay (The Riviera) Lot 180sqm, 6000/sqm Private Subdivision 0917-8423129

ST. CHARBEL DASMA nr SM 371m2 P2,650/m2 Vic 8903461 loc 27

Tgyty 600sqm 8278637 Steve

LOT

LAGUNA

Rush Sale Pacita
Hse & Lot #8479865

SOUTH PEAK P5,000/m2 LA240m2 Vic 8903461 loc 25/27

OFFICE SPACE

• Mkti 21m² 890T 7220943

MEMORIAL LOT

Lawn 18T Mausoleum 319T
16lots Antipolo 6470376

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CAVITE

CAYLABNE BAY RESORT Unit #6103 Las Casas De Cala Buena 09178462603 Ria

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with Complete Facilities & Permits
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RIZAL

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COMMERCIAL

COMMERCIAL SPACE 4 RENT
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REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

COMMERCIAL

MAKATI

Country Space Bldg 1
U-1C Facing Gil Puyat
P500/Sqm 8171589/91/94

HOUSE

MAKATI

Nr Ayala 2br 2tb 890-8681

MANDALUYONG

2BDRM HSE w/Garden & Rm 4Maid Call 0917-8340519

QUEZON CITY

3BR 3TB grge located in 1hec fmly cmpd nr Anonas LRT Stn on Aurora Blvd bxful grdn P22T /mo call 913-8314

CONDO/TWNHSE

MAKATI

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Std 9.5T 1BR 1.9M 8238624

MANILA

Nr UP-Mla Furn Studio Good For 2 0917-8160226

MANDALUYONG

8 Wack' 3BR Furn w/View Prkg • 0917-5245935 Tony

PASIG

ALEXANDRA Condo 3BR 3TB F/F 721-3127 • 532-5487

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w/ 100 PARKING SPACES
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AREA REQUIREMENTS
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OHT-3 Unit 17H 2BR Furnish Eastwood City Libis 633-0164

SAN JUAN

Platinum1 4BR Ghills Prkg • 0917-5245935 Tony

APARTMENT

LAS PINAS

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MAKATI

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2BR 1BR w/grge 8992148

Newly Renovated 1BR 5.5T 8483 Trabajo St JPRizal 870 6049

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PARANAQUE

2brs Apt. #1C Canada St. Better Living P6,500 7722160

QUEZON CITY

41Fema nr EDSA Proj8- 9211050

85 Iriga Laloma QC 4131280

N-Mla 3Units 1-2BR 7229573

SAN JUAN

A.LUNA ST 2story spacious P9T/mo good loc'n 6461603

ROOM & BOARD

1BR w/AC 3T MKT 8992148

BUENDIA PASAY 8345973
SEMI FURN FREE L/W
1 PER ONLY COM- CR 3T MO

•FURNISH PASAY 8872865•

LADIES NR MKTI 5628581

Nr Chinese Gen 7118679

Sucat Pque 8257524/24hrs

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• Mktl Viero 21m² 7.5T 7220943

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HOUSE & LOT

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Sta Mesa Bung 3BR 150m²
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CONDO FOR SALE/RENT BAYVIEW INTL. TOWER 3 Roxas Blvd Pque. Semi Furnished 4br+maids, 1-Parking. Sale P7.5M / Rent P65Kpm + dues. Neg Contact 8934110 or 0927 8904030

SALE / RENT 8444746 G'HILLS

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The Transport Manager
Toyota Hi Ace
British Embassy
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2% w/o taking car 7880183-84

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PUBLIC NOTICES

ANNOUNCEMENT

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LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of CARMEN SAN AGUSTIN was self- adjudicated to heir before Notary Public LUCILA YUTOC of Pasig City per Doc. No. 129, Page No. 24, Book No. 429, Series 2004 (PDI-Aug. 29, Sept. 5,12, 2004)

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BMHI
BCDA Management and Holdings, Inc.

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY & TO BID

The BCDA Management & Holdings, Incorporated (BMHI) invites all interested SUPPLIERS, MANUFACTURERS AND DISTRIBUTORS to bid for the following:

Items	Approved Budget
1. Supply, Delivery, and Installation of Fifteen (15) Units of Desktop Computers	Php900,000.00
2. Supply and Delivery of Seven (7) printers	
3. Supply and Delivery of One (1) External Modem (D/F/V) and Two (2) External Combo Drive	

1. Interested parties are required to submit a Letter of Intent (LOI) to the Chairperson, BMHI Procurement, Bids and Awards Committee (BMHI-PBAC) at the Small Conference Room, Main Lobby, BCDA Corporate Center, 2/F Bonifacio Technology Center, 31st Street corner 2nd Avenue, Crescent Park West, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig, Metro Manila, on or before 12:00 NN of September 6 – 10, 2004. The **Deadline for the submission of LOI is on 12:00 NN of September 10, 2004.** The LOI should state the following information:
    a. Company's name, address and nature of business; and
    b. Contact person directly employed by the company, and contact telephone numbers.
2. All interested suppliers shall secure a copy of the Bidding Documents for a non-refundable fee of **ONE THOUSAND PESOS (Php1,000.00)** at the above mentioned address, on or before 12:00 NN of September 10, 2004.
3. The Proposals shall be accepted on or before 12:00 NN and opened in the presence of the proponents or their authorized representatives at 1:30 PM on September 29, 2004 at the above-mentioned address.
4. BMHI reserves the right to reject any or all bid proposals, waive any defects or informalities therein, or accept any bid/s or offer/s which may be advantageous and beneficial to the government.

For additional information or clarification, please call **Mr. Bryan S. Pabustan** of the BMHI-PBAC Technical Working Group at **816-0989 or 816-1348.**

(Sgd.) **GLORIA GEORGINA DJ. JOTA**
BMHI-PBAC Chairperson

(PDI–Aug. 29 & Sept. 5, 2004)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
PRESIDENTIAL COMMISSION
ON GOOD GOVERNMENT
Regional Office 8
Tacloban City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Presidential Commission on Good Government (PCGG), Region 8, invites interested parties to participate in the sealed bidding for the lease of the ground floor of the People's Center and Library located at Real St., Tacloban City as venue for "CHRISTMAS BAZAAR" trade exhibit from November 15, 2004 to January 15, 2005.

The bidding guidelines will be available at PCGG Office, Asset Management Department, 3rd Floor, IRC Building, 82 EDSA Mandaluyong City and at the PCGG Regional Office, Nipa Hut, Jones St., Tacloban City, starting September 6, 2004. For inquiries, please contact Mr. Alfredo dela Paz at Telephone Nos. 726-0034 and 725-6958 and Mr. Renor O. Dauag at Telephone No. (053) 321-3413.

Pre-qualification requirements should be submitted on or before September 15, 2004, while bids will be received, opened and tabulated at 10:00 A.M. on September 20, 2004 in the presence of the bidders at the PCGG Office, Asset Management Department, 3rd Floor, IRC Building, 82 EDSA, Mandaluyong City.

(Sgd.) **RENOR O. DAUAG**
Officer-In-Charge
PCGG, Region 8
Tacloban City

(PDI–Sept. 3, 4 & 5, 2004)

ILOCOS NORTE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.
Suyo, Dingras, Ilocos Norte, PHILIPPINES 2913
Tel. No. (077) 784-75-46 & 47; 784-71-25 & Fax No. (077) 784-71-25

INVITATION FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION AND FOR BIDS

The Ilocos Norte Electric Cooperative, Inc. has applied for a loan from the Development Bank of the Philippines to finance the construction of its 69 KV power line and invites electrical contractors who are PCAB registered to apply for pre-qualification and to submit bids for the said project.

The project includes the furnishing of labor and materials for the construction of about 37 kilometers of 69 KV line along the national highway in the Province of Ilocos Norte.

Interested contractors may obtain their pre-qualification forms and bid documents from the INEC main office starting **September 14, 2004.**

Pre-qualification documents must be received by this office not later than **September 28, 2004.** Only those pre-qualified shall be invited to bid for the project.

INEC reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any defect or informality, assume no obligation whatsoever of indemnity to the bidders any expense or loss that the bidder may incur in the preparations of its bid and to accept the bid most advantageous to INEC.

(Sgd.) **RENATO A. BALINTEC PEE**
PBAC Chairman

(PDI – September 4 & 5, 2004)

Peñafrancia Fiesta in Metro Manila

ONCE again the Peñafrancia Fiesta of Our Lady of Peñafrancia of the Bicol region will be celebrated by her devotees in Metro Manila starting Thursday, Sept. 9. The image will be brought to St. Andrew Parish Church at N. Garcia, Reposo, Bel Air, Makati from RGC Bldg. Apo St., Mandaluyong City.

Tridium of masses and novenas will be said from Sept. 9, 10 & 11 at 6 p.m.

On Sept. 12, a special mass will be said at St. Andrew at 12 p.m. after the mass a motorcade will start at 2:30, carrying the image up to the Embarcadero Point on Ayala Bridge, Manila for the fluvial procession from Ayala to the ferry landing in Escolta, Manila. The blessed "Ina" will be carried on foot from the ferry landing, by female devotees to the Manila Cathedral for the 6 p.m. solemn high mass.

The image of Our Lady of Peñafrancia, to whom a number of miracles have been attributed, is a replica of the original venerated at the Sierra de Peña de Francia in the province of Salamca, Spain. She was enthroned as the regional patroness of the Bicol region 80 years ago on Sept. 16, 1924.

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CEBU CITY (032) 255 7230 to 31 (032) 255 7233 to 35
DAVAO CITY (082) 225 0091 to 92

ROBERT CHAN CASADO

Died: September 03, 2004
at the age of 49.

His bereaved wife **Carmen**; mother **Milagros P. Casado**; children **Roma & Ferdie Verayo, Rovi, Ryan & Randy**; grandchildren **Kim, JV & Rinoa**; brothers ***Remy, Raffy*** & **Mike**; sisters ***Ruby, Marilyn, Gerry*** & **Tippi** request your prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at Loyola Memorial Chapels, Guadalupe. His remains will be cremated on September 07, 2004 at 12:00 noon.

CLASSIFIEDS

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENSE
Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo
Quezon City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Armed Forces of the Philippines invites all interested oil producers/suppliers of petroleum products to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid for the SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF PETROLEUM OIL AND LUBRICANTS (POL) requirements of the AFP for one (1) year with an estimated budget of **ONE BILLION FIVE HUNDRED MILLION PESOS (P1.5B)** chargeable against the FY-2005 AFP POL Budget.

Only bids from manufacturers and exclusive suppliers/distributors of said product shall be entertained.

The bid documents shall only be available for issuance starting **September 06, 2004 until September 20, 2004** during office hours at **DND BAC Secretariat, AFP Logistics Command, Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City.** The bid documents shall be issued upon payment of **THIRTY THOUSAND PESOS (P30,000.00)**, which is not refundable.

A Special Power of Attorney, issued by the prospective bidder authorizing its representative to purchase the bid documents in its behalf, shall be required before issuance of the said documents.

A Pre-Bid Conference is scheduled on October 07, 2004 at 9:00 AM (local time) at the Silid Panday Pira, 1st Floor Bulwagang Mabini, Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City. Bidders may submit their query/ies, if any, in writing to the BAC Secretariat not later than three (3) working days prior to the Pre-Bid Conference.

Deadline for **Submission of Eligibility Requirements and Bid Envelopes** will be on **October 19, 2004 at 9:00 AM (local time)** to be immediately followed by the **Opening of Bids at the Silid Panday Pira, 1st Floor, Bulwagang Mabini, Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City.**

The Armed Forces of the Philippines reserves the right to reject any or all bids based on the grounds for disqualification specified in RA 9184 without assuming any obligation whatsoever for expenses or losses that may be incurred by the bidder(s) in the preparation of the bid.

(Sgd.) ASEC JOSE N FERRER JR
Chairman DND-BAC

(PDI – September 5 & 12, 2004)

BOARD OF INVESTMENTS

dti

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the application of **A.P. INOCENCIO FARMS** with office address at **Pantay-Buhangin Road. Bo. Pantay-Dalig, Teresa, Rizal** for registration with the Board of Investments under Book I of the Omnibus Investments Code of 1987, otherwise known as E.O. 226, as Amended, as **Existing and Expanding Producer of Poultry** at the following capacities:

Existing and Expansion — 3,000,000 Day-old-chicks (Doc's) per year
Existing and Expansion — 20,000 Pullets per year

with project site at same office address stated above has been officially accepted on **August 27, 2004.**

Any person with valid objections to or pertinent comments on the above-mentioned application may file his/her objection, in writing under oath, with the BOI within one (1) week from the date of this publication.

Issued this 27th day of August 2004.

(Sgd.) RUDY B. CAÑA
Officer-In-Charge
Project Evaluation and Registration Department

(PDI – September 5, 2004)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

ARNULFO A. MAKILAN
Criminal Case No. 04-2371

A warrant of arrest has been issued by the RTC-NCJR Branch CLVXXII (148) on **Arnulfo A. Makilan**, whose picture appears here, for the crime of **ESTAFA** under Art. 315 par 1 of the Revised Penal Code, City of Makati. His last known address are Malangsang II-F, Imus, Cavite and 1901 Saint Niño Villamonte, Bacolod City. Please contact 02-8121601 to 05 for any information regarding the subject.

(PDI – September 5, 2004)

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cut & clip

Galing Pilipino Movement

GALING PILIPINO MOVEMENT (GPM) is a non-profit, private sector initiative of citizens committed to recognize, affirm and propagate what is good and excellent about being PILIPINO to develop a culture of excellence and a commendable sense of national pride as a value-centered foundation for nation-building. ***Itaguyod natin ang Galing Pilipino!***

September 2004 Calendar of Events

GP YOUTH KAPIHAN
8am to 11am, Saturday, **September 11, 2004**
Chowking-Pioneer, Mandaluyong City

Do you recall when your moms and dads tell you about how they used to make their own toys and home decors from leaves and other items from the backyard? In **Galing Arts & Crafts**, young mother Rheeza Hernandez, a native of Bulacan, teaches us about preserving the vanishing art of ***"puni"*** an indigenous way of creating décors, toys and utilitarian home items using coconut and nipa leaves. This craft-making session is for the young and old alike! ***Free registration. Brunch courtesy of Chowking.***

NATURAL FARMING SEMINAR
8am to 5pm, Saturday, **September 18, 2004**
Chowking-Pioneer, Mandaluyong City

BABUYAN NA HINDI AMOY BABOY! Innovative Galing Pilipino seminar conducted by Mr. Andry Lim. Attend this seminar & find out how to raise pigs... ***WALANG HUGAS, WALANG LIGO, WALANG BAHO!*** Learn how to grow ***CHEMICAL-FREE FRUITS & VEGETABLES***. And know how to make concoctions using natural ingredients found in your backyard.

Seminar Fee: P500.00 for GPM members, P1,000.00 for non-members

Galing Housekeeping Seminar
Hosted by Victoria Group of Companies
8am to 5pm, Monday, **September 20, 2004**
I-PEX Training Center,
Hotel Victoria de Malate, Manila

GPM's eco-agro tourism program, BISITA PILIPINAS, will enlist private homes, preferably ancestral houses, whose owners and caretakers are willing to participate in the development of a local bed & breakfast homestay program. Learn the techniques of quality housekeeping... find out how to make beds ala hotel style... know the proper use of cleaning aids... AND MORE! A well-kept house speaks of a well-run home.

Seminar Fee: P100.00 for GPM Members, P200.00 for non-members

GP KAPIHAN
8am to 11am, Saturday, **September 25, 2004**
Chowking-Pioneer, Mandaluyong City

Pilipinos are born creative. Jon us in our **Linang ng Lahi Kapihan** and hear from our speakers, historians and experts, the inherent artistry of our indigenous folks on pottery, weaving, basketry, jewel craft and other forms of art. Find out where can we find the remnants of these Pilipino treasures. Let us discover these rich creations of our ancestors and how it influenced our present generations.

Registration is FREE. Brunch courtesy of Chowking.

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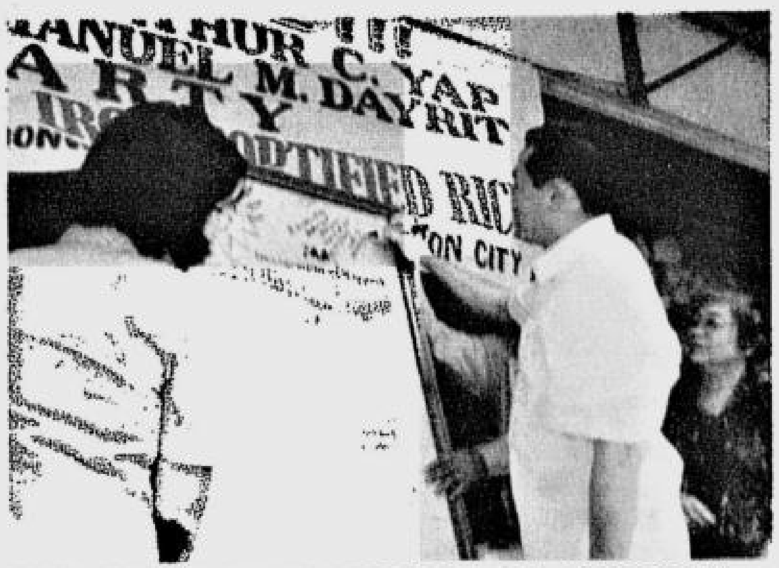
For particulars
call GPM Foundation Inc.
@ (02)633.1089 or (02)631.3932
or log on to www.galingpilipino.com

DA CHIEF LAUNCHES AND SELLS NFA'S IRON-FORTIFIED RICE

Agriculture Secretary and former National Food Authority Administrator Arthur C. Yap sells packs of iron-fortified rice during the launching of the NFA program at the Commonwealth Market in Quezon City recently. Pegged at P21 per kilogram, NFA's iron-fortified rice is of premium grade variety and sold in 2-kilogram packs. The program is in compliance with Republic Act 8976 or the Iron Fortification Program which requires mandatory fortification of staples such as rice, sugar, flour, cooking oil by November this year.

NFA LAUNCHES IRON-FORTIFIED PROGRAM IN COMMONWEALTH MARKET

Photo shows Department of Agriculture Secretary and former National Food Authority Administrator Arthur C. Yap (second from right), showing a pack of the NFA's iron-fortified rice during the launching of the program at the Commonwealth Market recently. With Yap are, from left, NFA-NCR Assistant Director Basilides Taco, NFA Assistant Administrator Jessup Navarro, Bureau of Food and Drugs Deputy Director Adeliza Ramos, and MOST-USAID Resident Advisor Hector Maglalang. NFA's iron fortified rice is being sold at P21 per kilogram in premium grade variety. The program is in compliance with Republic Act 8976 or the Iron fortification Program which requires mandatory fortification of staples such as rice, sugar, flour, cooking oil by November this year.



YAP SIGNS DECLARATION OF SUPPORT TO IRON-FORTIFIED RICE PROGRAM

Agriculture Secretary and former National Food Authority Administrator Arthur C. Yap signs the Declaration of Support to the iron-fortified rice program of the food agency during the launching of the said program in Commonwealth Market in Quezon City recently. The NFA's iron-fortification program is in compliance with Republic > Act 8976 or the Iron Fortification Program which requires mandatory fortification of staples such as rice, sugar, flour, cooking oil by November this year. Yap is joined by officials of the DA, NFA and the Department of Health.

- Home
- Travel
- Weddings
- Surprises

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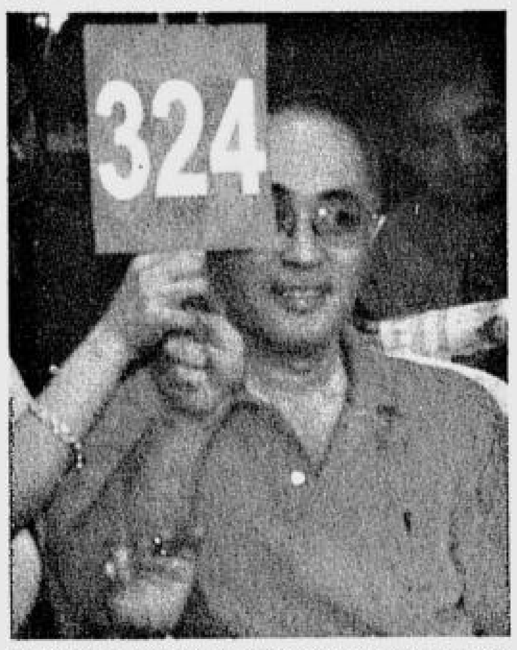
Editor **Chelo Banal-Formoso**

Going, going, sold!



FIRST BIDDER Kinito Katagir, chef of Makati Shangri-La's Inagiku, bids for Adidas Respect ME (Missy Elliot) cap.

FEATHERS and Swatch for Maryann Lumen

IT WAS so unlike the auctions that you've seen on television or in movies—you know, the kind where wealthy collectors would raise their numbered paddles and, with the least movement on their Botoxed faces, bid millions of dollars for something artsy to add to their collection.

At last Sunday's Sports Time Swatch and Adidas auction, people were so relaxed you couldn't put a price on their good mood. And what were auctioned off were not pieces of high art or heirloom jewelry but the most desirable Swatch and Adidas memorabilia this side of cool.

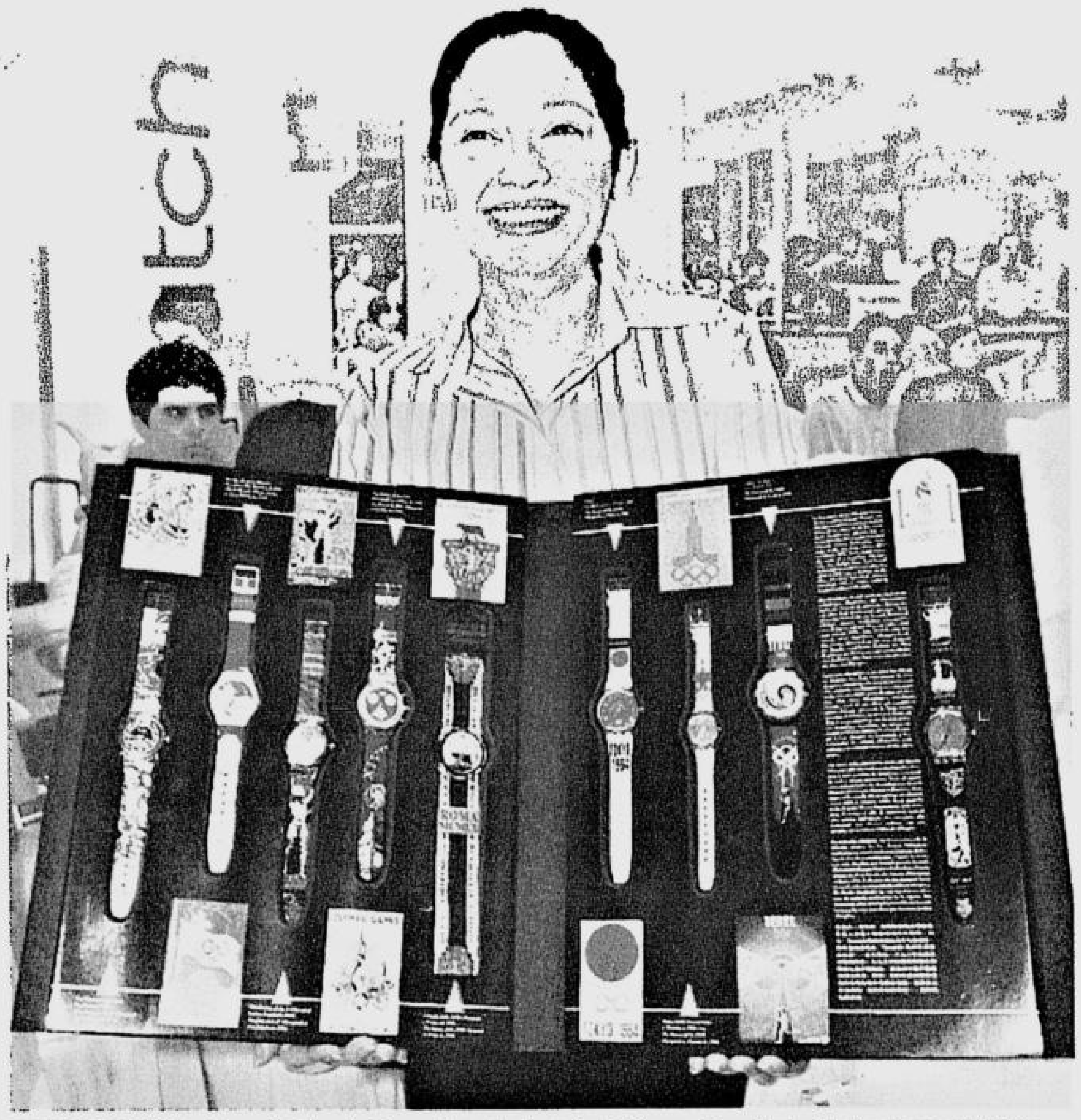
A rowdy bunch of passionate bidders filled the Greenbelt 3 lobby and was egged on by the crowd attracted by the presence of models, movie and pro basketball stars and other celebrity guests.

The four-part auction action took all of six hours. It started slowly but surely with Chinggay Andrada and Jinno Rufino as auctioneers, got energized by the trio of Anton San Diego, Jose Llana, Mai Cojuangco-Zini, sustained by the duo of Tina Revilla and again Llana, and reached climax with Bill Velasco, Paolo Bediones and Tim Yap behind the podium.

The highest bid in the first session at 155,000 points was for the Adidas men's supersuede track jacket and pants. A Swatch Rainbow watch that came with an itsy-bitsy black bikini got snatched at 90,000 points.

There was no rhyme or reason in the bidding. A Swatch Square watch with charms went for 500,000 points while a Swatch Skin with real diamonds—repeat, real diamonds—got sold for only 500 more points. A red Ian Thorpe autographed swimming cap was auctioned off for 550,000 points. In blue, it was worth only 80,000 points. In short, every bid was a personal prayer and the auctioneers did their best to grant it.

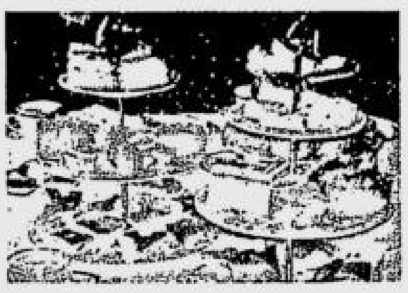
GOING/C6



TREASURE CHEST of Swatch Olympic Games Historical watches is diamond star Maricel Soriano's award *du jour*.

IN THIS ISSUE

A MODERN fairy tale from Gilda Cordero Fernando /D1



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The music player of this generation

The much-awaited iPod is finally in the country!

NICOLETTE Bell is pretty in pink with an iPod mini on her waist.

BIANCA Valerio and Jon Mulali wearing the iPod as a hip armband.

By Beia Formoso
Contributor

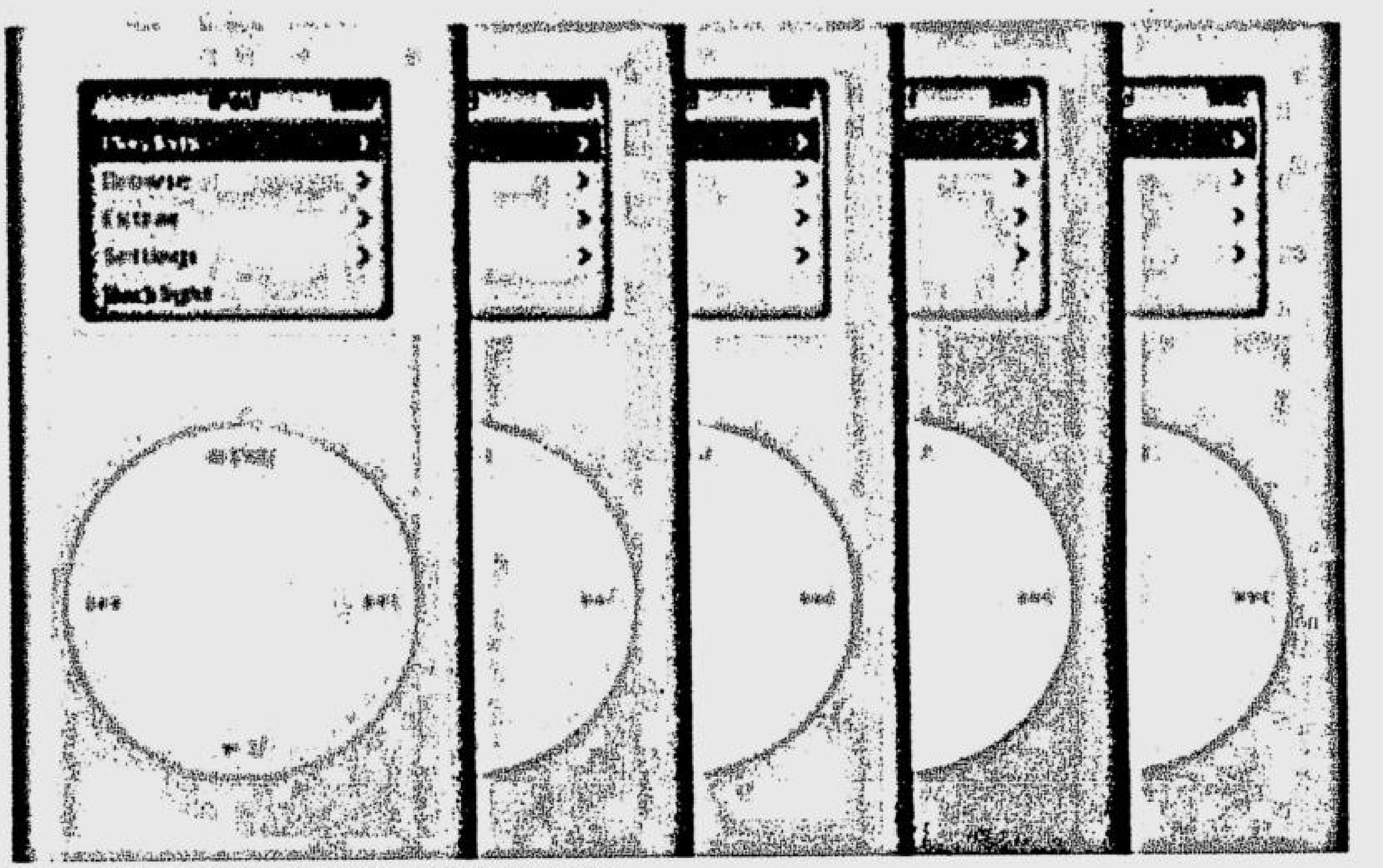
RECORD players. Stereos that reach the ceiling. Bulky boomboxes. The Walkman. The Discman.

Music players have evolved over the decades in size, shape and what they play—from vinyl records, eight-tracks, cassette tapes and compact discs to mp3s and other forms of digital music.

The new millennium is no exception with the invention of the ultimate music player: the Apple iPod.

When Apple introduced the iPod to the world in 2001, it forever changed the way people listen to music. Never before had there been a faster and easier way to always have music with you wherever you go.

And yet, in the words of Apple's CEO Steve Jobs, "the best digital music player just got better." With the creation of the iPod mini and development of the fourth-generation iPod, Apple once again has outdone itself in hardware and software innovation.



LIKE candy! The iPod mini has five delicious colors to choose from.

APPLE Singapore's Patricia Siew and EY Yeo

Light, small and deadly

The good news is, one doesn't have to buy an iPod on the Internet or through a relative who's going aboard, because the newest iPods are now available in the Philippines.

The iPod mini is the world's smallest portable music player at 100 g and 3.6 inches high, 2 inches wide and less than half an inch thick. It holds up to 1,000 CD-quality songs in its 4GB storage, and plays for eight hours straight.

It's so light and small you'd forget it was there if it weren't for the casing. The cutest model by far, the iPod mini comes in five delicious shiny colors: pink, blue, green, silver and gold, in anodized aluminum that protects it from stains and scratches while in your pocket or purse.

You'll definitely want to show this baby off, and what better way to do that than by attaching it to your clothes with the belt clip (included in the package) or sticking it on your arm (with the durable neoprene armband, sold separately) while jogging?

But the iPod mini isn't all about looks. It is the first of the iPod models to feature the Apple Click Wheel. Using only one hand, you can now scroll with the touch-sensitive Click Wheel, press the symbol buttons, and quickly navigate your entire music library without ever lifting your thumb.

The best features of the former iPods have been retained in this one, such as Apple's patent pending Auto-Sync technology that automatically downloads an entire digital music library onto iPod and keeps it up-to-date whenever it is plugged into a Mac or Windows computer using FireWire or USB 2.0 cable. Transfer time is unbelievably quick at two songs per second.

And not only does it serve as a mass storage device for other files and documents. You can also store a copy of your contacts, calendar, and to-do lists. It also includes games like Solitaire, Brick, Parachute and Music Quiz, which you can play while listening to music.

If you're one of those who claim they would never be able to fill up 20GB (5,000 songs), much less 40GB (10,000 songs) with their song preferences, the iPOD mini is the player for you. Selling price is at P15,740 and comes with earbud headphones, an Apple iPod mini power adaptor, a FireWire cable, a USB 2.0 cable and a CD-ROM with iTunes program.

Fourth-generation gizmo

Hardcore music lovers, however, should skip the cute colors for the fourth-generation iPod.

It offers numerous enhancements, the most obvious of which is size. It's slightly smaller and lighter than the older models. Battery life has improved from 10-12 hours, and can be fast-charged up to 80-percent capability in only one hour through the accompanying FireWire while connected to your computer.

This one too has lost the four buttons under the screen and adopted the Click Wheel feature. And since people love listening to music on Shuffle, the option Shuffle Songs is now included in the Main Menu.

DYAN Castillejo and iPod's Jun Villanueva

It just takes a click on the wheel for it to automatically select songs at random. Users can now also save multiple on-the-go playlists, handy for finding the right set of songs for the right moment.

What hasn't changed is its massive storage size, with 20GB able to hold 5,000 songs and 40GB 10,000 songs. Its trusty features are also intact, such as Auto-Sync, customizable menu, portable hard drive, Text Notes for reminders, contacts, calendar and games. All these, and the clean, crisp white cover that Apple is known for.

How much does this god of music players cost? The 20GB model costs P18,780 while the 40GB model sells for P25,610, and comes with earbud headphones, AC adaptor, FireWire cable, USB 2.0 cable.

Cool accessories

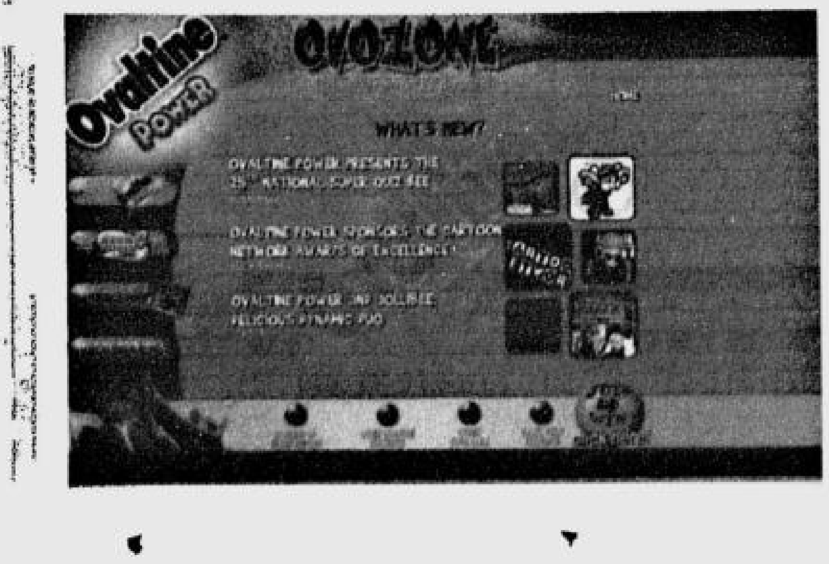
As always, a cool gadget has equally cool accessories—in this case, sold separately: black carrying case, dock, in-ear headphones, earbud headphones and remote, stereo connection kit like FM transmitters and cassette adapters, and the Apple Airport Express.

When you want to listen out loud to music that's in your iPod out or need to update it instantly wherever you are, the Airport Express is the feature to help you. It turns your iTunes into AirTunes, playing your music wirelessly on your home stereo or powered speakers, anywhere in the house.

It also serves as a wireless Internet connection for your computer, letting you share a single broadband Internet connection by serving as a wireless bridge to extend the range of your primary base station (where your modem is). Secure and safe, the Airport Express fits in the palm of your hand so you can create an instant wireless network on the go.

The possibilities are endless. In fact, the iPod wasn't just made for music. There is a special feature that allows you to adjust speed while listening to Audio Books. Don't have time to sit quietly and read a good book? Listen to Dan Brown's "The Da Vinci Code" or J.R.R. Tolkien's "The Hobbit" while commuting or waiting for client meetings by purchasing and downloading them from the Internet or uploading them from a CD.

There is no doubt that iPod has changed the way people listen to music. No wonder it is the No. 1 digital music player in the world.



Power drink is on the Net

OVOZONE, Ovaltine Power's official web site, is now online to reach out to computer savvy kids. The web site will allow children to know more about their favorite choco health drink.

They can learn more about Activ8 Power and its benefits, see the new Ovaltine Power television Commercial, find out the latest on their favorite drink and play interactive games, among others.

For instance, they will learn that New Ovaltine Power has been improved with Activ8 Power + Zinc, a breakthrough combination of mind enhancers and body optimizers.

Visit www.ovaltine.com.ph.

End of season sale

MARKS and Spencer is holding its End of Season sale until Sept. 11. Discounts are offered on selected menswear, ladieswear, toiletries and lingerie.

Marks and Spencer is located at Shangri-La Plaza, Glorietta 4, Greenbelt 3, Alabang Town Center, SM Megamall, Power Plant Mall, Robinson's Place, Harrison Plaza, Starmills Pampanga, Ayala Center Cebu and Robinson's Galleria.

DON Alvaro de Salas (center) with Michel and Amparito Lhuillier

PAQUI Aboitiz, Carmen Tornos de Salas, Josephine Aboitiz Booth and Quina Melendez

Spain's 'amigos' in Cebu celebrate

CASINO Español de Cebu president Bobby Aboitiz and Marian Aboitiz

DON Alvaro de Salas, charge d'affaires of the Spanish embassy in Manila, and his wife, Doña **Carmen Tornos de Salas**, were guests of honor during the recent formal launch of Amigos de España en Cebu, Filipinas. The event was part of the traditional observance of July as Spanish Month in the Casino Español de Cebu.

CEBU CEBU

Jaime Picornell

The ceremony was held in the temporary clubhouse of Casino Español at the Garcia-Escaño mansion on Ranudo Street, just a few steps away from the construction site of the new Casino Español building. The grandiose structure was also visited by Don Alvaro and Doña Carmen. The impressive entrance hall is reminiscent of a Renaissance palace patio.

During the launch, Casino Español president **Roberto Aboitiz** welcomed Don Alvaro and Doña Carmen. The organization's first president, **Amparito Llamas Lhuillier**, explained the rationale for Amigos de España.

Commendation

Don Alvaro commended both speakers for their desire to promote the Spanish language and culture.

Aside from Casino president **Bobby Aboitiz**, also present were vice president **Cheling Sala**, house chair **Bunny Pages**, architect **Tessie Javier**, who is in the building committee, consultants **Robert Lilja** (for management) and **Gema Luisa Pido** (for food).

The amigos present included **Michel Lhuillier**, escorting Amparito; the Casino Español's first lady, **Marian Aboitiz**; the organization's secretary, **Myra Gonzalez**; treasurer **Julina Muertegui**; **Paqui Aboitiz**; **Quina Melendez**; **Vivina Yrastorza**; **Gabriel Palmer**; **Josephine Booth**; and the three ladies who conduct the Spanish language classes—**Cecilia Rodriguez**, **Ma. Pilar Escaño** and her daughter, **Choco Laplana**.

Among them was my father, Don **Santiago Picornell**, who often enlivens occasions like this with memories of his youth. He is 92 now, but he clearly remembers when, at the age of 8, his father brought him to the founding meeting of Casino Español de Cebu on Jan. 1, 1920.

Need to know

It seems we have readers in distant shores. They say they read this column on the Internet or in their subscriptions. Reacting to the May 2 column, which first reported on the formation of Amigos de España en Cebu, they expressed a wish to know more about it.

As it is newly organized and still trying to attain the goal of 100 founding members, the organization's activities are limited to monthly luncheon meetings, which can be very lively. Everyone strives to speak in Spanish. When in doubt, **Julina M.** has a dictionary they can consult. However, **Paqui A.** and **Quina M.** are quite quick with an answer, or a correction. It makes for a very hilarious time.

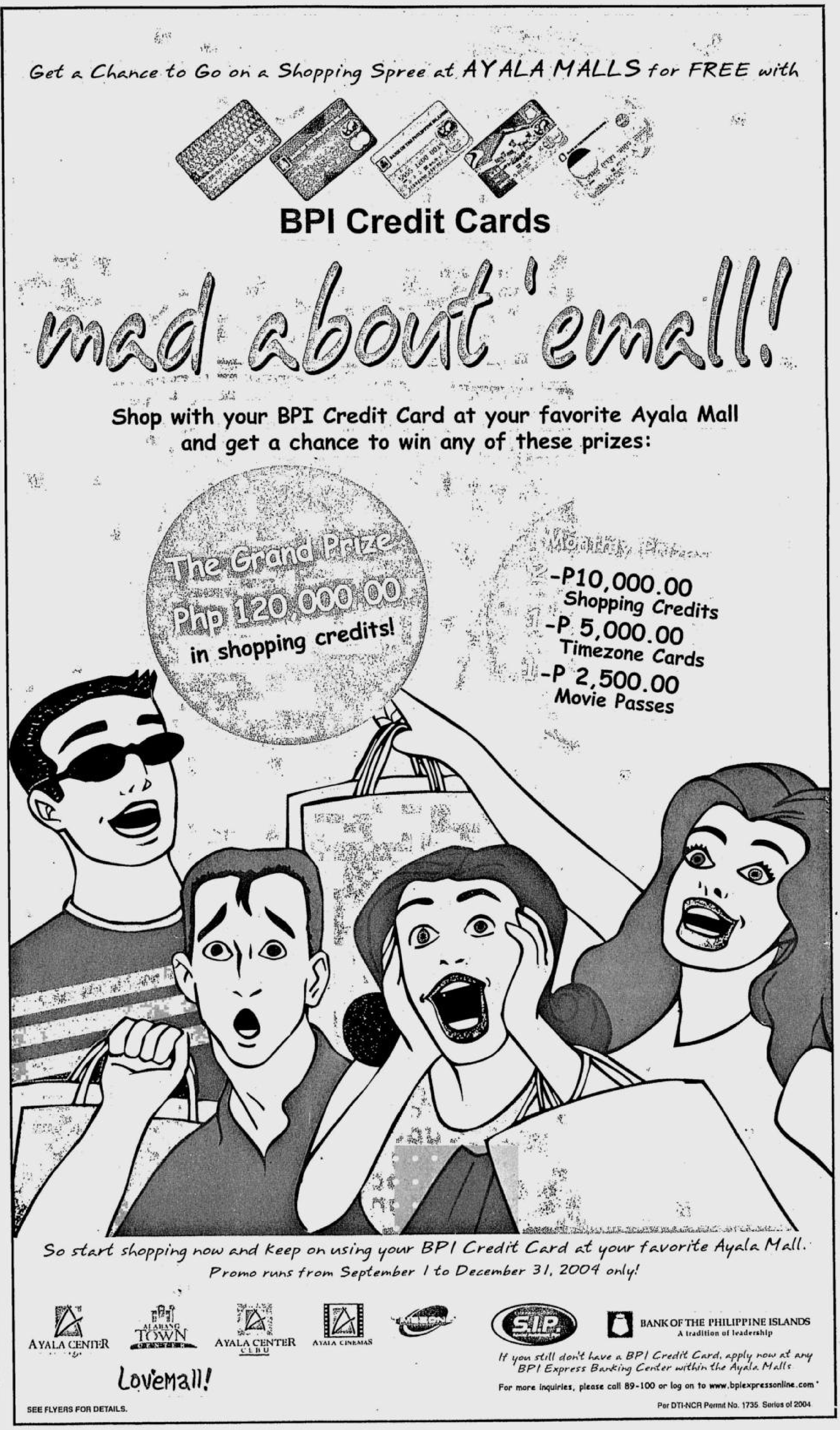
It may seem like a club of ladies who lunch but actually, the first to sign up were men—**Felicio Zuluaga**, his brother **Rodrigo Zuluaga**, and **Jose B. Sala** whose wife, **Susan M. Sala**, is the Amigos' vice president.

Other Amigos are **Chinggay Utzurrum**, PRO; **Ana Ma. Escaño**, **Annie Aboitiz**, **Annabelle Lu Ym**, **Teresing Mendezona**, **Anna Marie Dizon**, **Tina Ebrada**, **Margot Larrañaga**, **Lisa Paradies**, **Jon Aboitiz**, **Carmen Campbell**, **Ernesto Aboitiz** and **Jose Mari Miranda**.

Other members are **Angelita Lhuillier**, **Oche Golez** from Cagayan de Oro, **Cristina Moraza**, **Vilma Ouano**, **Julie Gandionco**, **Fe Sala Villarica**, **Alberto de Rotaeche**, **Lourdes Narcise** and **Teresita Moraza Mendezona**.

The next meeting of Amigos will be on Sept. 15 at Sol y Luna, the authentic Spanish restaurant at the Ayala Entertainment Center. It will be hosted by Amparito who, at this moment, is visiting daughter **Monique** in Beverly Hills, California.

The agenda will include forthcoming events such as the Fiesta in October at the City Sports Club, and the concert of **Pilita Corrales** on Nov. 27 at the new Casino Espanol. Pilita's show is a fund-raiser for the St. Joseph Foundation, which has a project teaching housewives livelihood skills like crocheting. The products made by the beneficiaries are displayed and sold at the home of **Lulu Aboitiz**.



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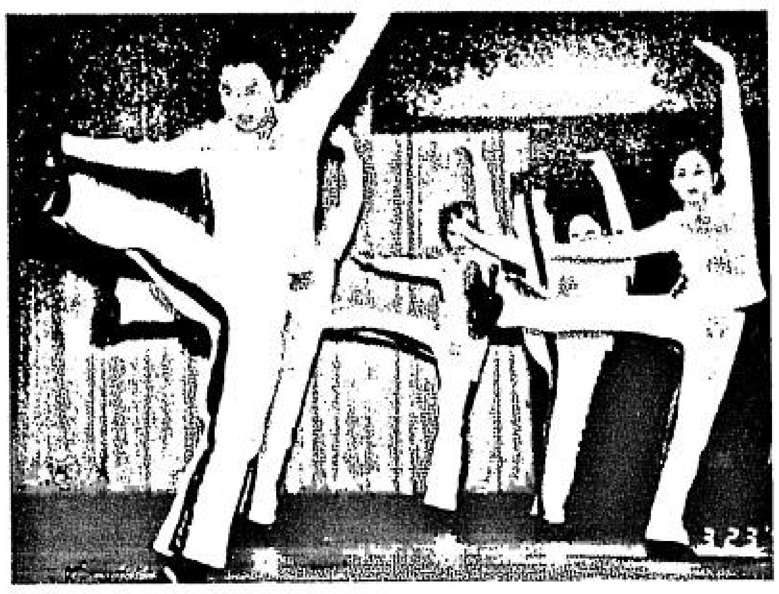
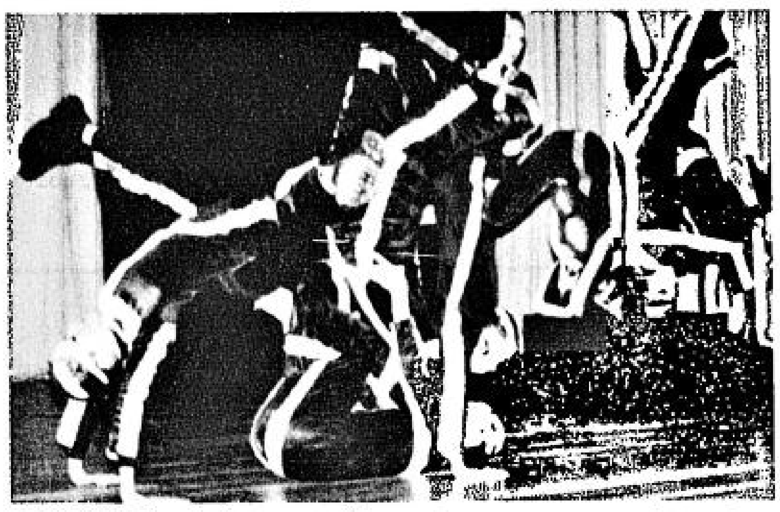
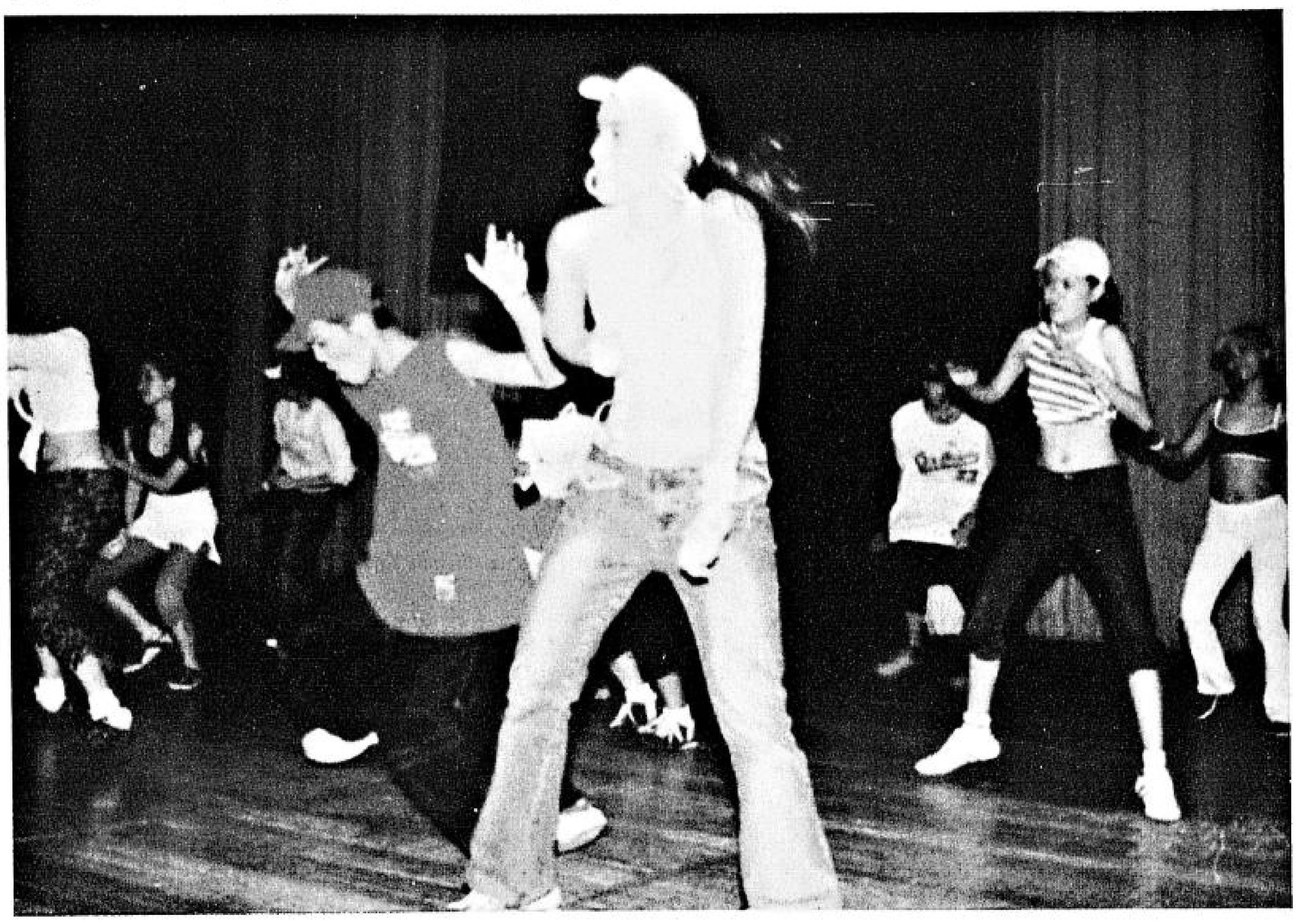

UNIVERSITY of the Philippines' Dansa


MIRIAM College's Company of One


COLLEGE of St. Benilde's Silent Steps

Night of youthful moves

AT the Maximum Groovity Dance Event held recently at the Henry Lee Irwin Theater of Ateneo de Manila University, 15 college dance groups, clad in their best costumes and with their passions running high, showed an amazing dance repertoire, from classical ballet to jazz and hip-hop.

The Assumption College's Danzmoves performed a tap dance version of popular songs by Michael Jackson, Madonna and Britney Spears.

The Company of the Ateneo Dancers looked classy and angelic in their all-white ensemble as they solemnly danced to Alanis Morissette's "Forgiven."

The College of St. Benilde's Silent Steps grooved to the beat of the Black-Eyed Peas' "Where is the Love."

The board of judges led by Douglas Nierras, one of the top choreographers in the country and the artistic director of Powerdance, named the top three dance groups.

The University of the Philippines' Dansa, who showed their perfect form in their "Kill Bill" number, went home with the third prize.

The Miriam College Company of One did a cheer-dance-like number and got the second prize.

But the night belonged to the UP Filipiniana, whose exceptionally soulful rendition of Coldplay's "Clocks" left the audience stunned. It won the grand prize.

The event was organized by Megastar Events and sponsored by Nescafé Ice. Part of the proceeds was donated to the Philippine Federation of the Deaf and the South East Asian Institute of the Deaf.

Celebration with a bang!

IT'S a jazzy month at Shangri-La Plaza this September. On Sept. 10, Douglas Nierras' Powerdance will showcase a jazz dance concert billed "Power Jazz," 6 p.m. at the mall's Grand Atrium, 2/L.

Premier jazz band Skarlett will perform chart-busting hits at 4 p.m. on Sept. 18. On Sept. 24, Shangri-La Plaza plays host to the album launching of Ayen Munji.

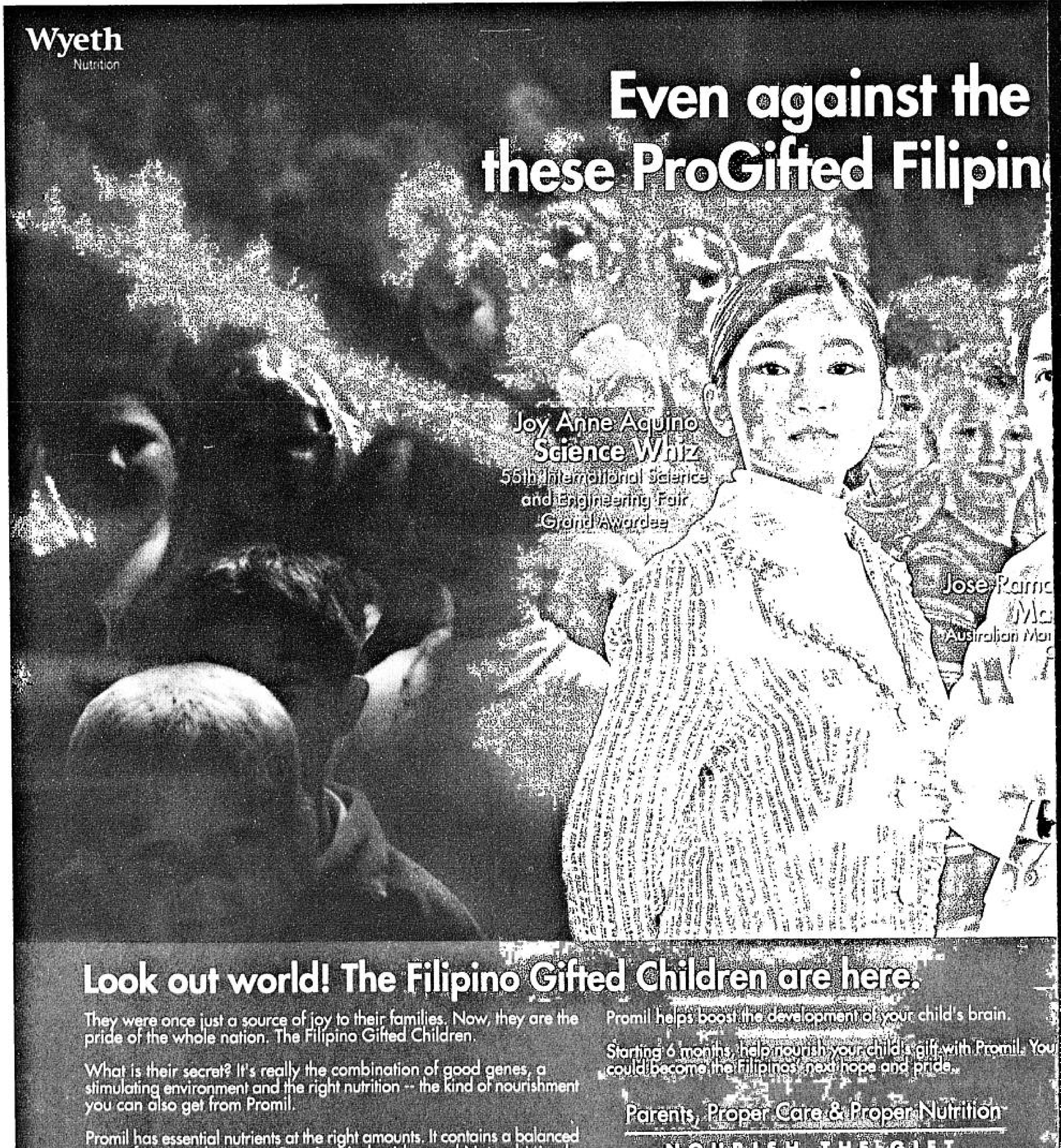
Streetscape, the mall's outdoor dining and night entertainment center, features teen pop and R&B sensation Mikaela Hahn with Great Divide on Sept. 10, Time & A Half on Sept. 11, Sign of Times on Sept. 17, Entwine on Sept. 18, New Level on Sept. 24 and Millennium on Sept. 25.

Meanwhile, the Gundam Model Kit Caravan Tour visits The Shang on Sept. 19, while the Duncan Yoyo Grand Exhibition, a top-drawer act among young people, holds fort on Sept. 26.

Shangri-La Plaza's abiding support for the arts is headlined by the upcoming 2004 Maningning Miclat Art Competition, a painting contest open to young artists aged 28 and below.

Submission of entries will be on Sept. 14 and 15. The entries will be exhibited at the 4/L of the Shang from Sept. 17 to 29, while the awarding ceremonies will be held on Sept. 29.

The mall's Kids Zone on Level 4 also brims with activities this month, starting with the Children's Fashion Sale and Kids Promo from Sept. 24 until Oct. 3. A Children's Fashion Show will be held on Sept. 25, while various kiddie activities such as a makeover for little girls, henna tattooing for little boys, face painting, balloon twisting and storytelling sessions will be held on Sept. 25 and 26.



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Per E.O. # 51 CA No. 054-2004, 9/2/2004

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Coffee crackerjack

By Rowena C. Burgos

Ida Dagami is Starbucks' coffee ambassador. What job could be more swell?

IDA Dagami is as serious about relationship marketing as she is about a good cup of coffee.

For her, "Our business is customer experience. Our industry is coffee" is more than just a company motto. This coffee ambassador of Starbucks firmly believes that those two things have helped the company succeed.

Vital is the tenet that drinking coffee at Starbucks should be a distinct and pleasurable experience. "We know our customers, understand what they value, and know how to enhance what they value," says Dagami.

Premium coffee became a passion and a profession for Dagami when she joined Starbucks at Alabang Town Center in 2001. It was on that job that she became schooled in brewing techniques and equipment, bean selection, blending and roasting.

Those lessons are paying off in a big way now for this 23-year-old, thanks to the coffee bar boom.

Envoy's tasks

The country's first coffee ambassador, Dagami bested 12 coffee masters or baristas of different Starbucks outlets in the Philippines in the first-ever Ambassador's Cup. Held every two years, the competition will have its second incarnation on Nov. 9.

Dagami's prizes included a free trip to Seattle (where the Starbucks head office is located), travel allowance and gift certificates from Rustan's.

And how does one become a barista? Only regular employees can apply for the position of coffee explorer. One has to take a special exam where you should acquire a grade of 95 percent in order to become a coffee master in the store level.

To be a coffee master in the district level, a requirement in joining the Ambassador's Cup, you have to present any coffee concoction through dancing, singing or acting. The district manager then chooses the top two winners in their area who will vie for the Ambassador's Cup.

As coffee ambassador, Dagami conducts coffee seminars at Starbucks outlets and other companies and schools, and researches and writes for the monthly newsletter "Coffee Scoop," which is distributed in store outlets.

The seminars, dubbed "From Bean Cup to Coffee," presents information on Starbucks, the history and growing of coffee, the three main coffee-growing regions, coffee processing, roasting, categories, stamp, fundamentals, taste and description, differences of arabica and robusta and pairing coffee with food.

Passion for work

"Being an ambassador has helped boost my self-confidence. I used to be shy. But now, even my manager has noticed a great improvement," Dagami says.

Three months after winning the contest, Dagami was promoted to shift supervisor. Eight months later, she was designated assistant store manager. She's also with the learning and development team, which is in charge of training "partners" of different stores nationwide.

"People say passion is contagious, and I believe it. If your teammates see it in you, they will also be inspired to give their best in their work," says Dagami, who used to work as food server in a fast-food chain.

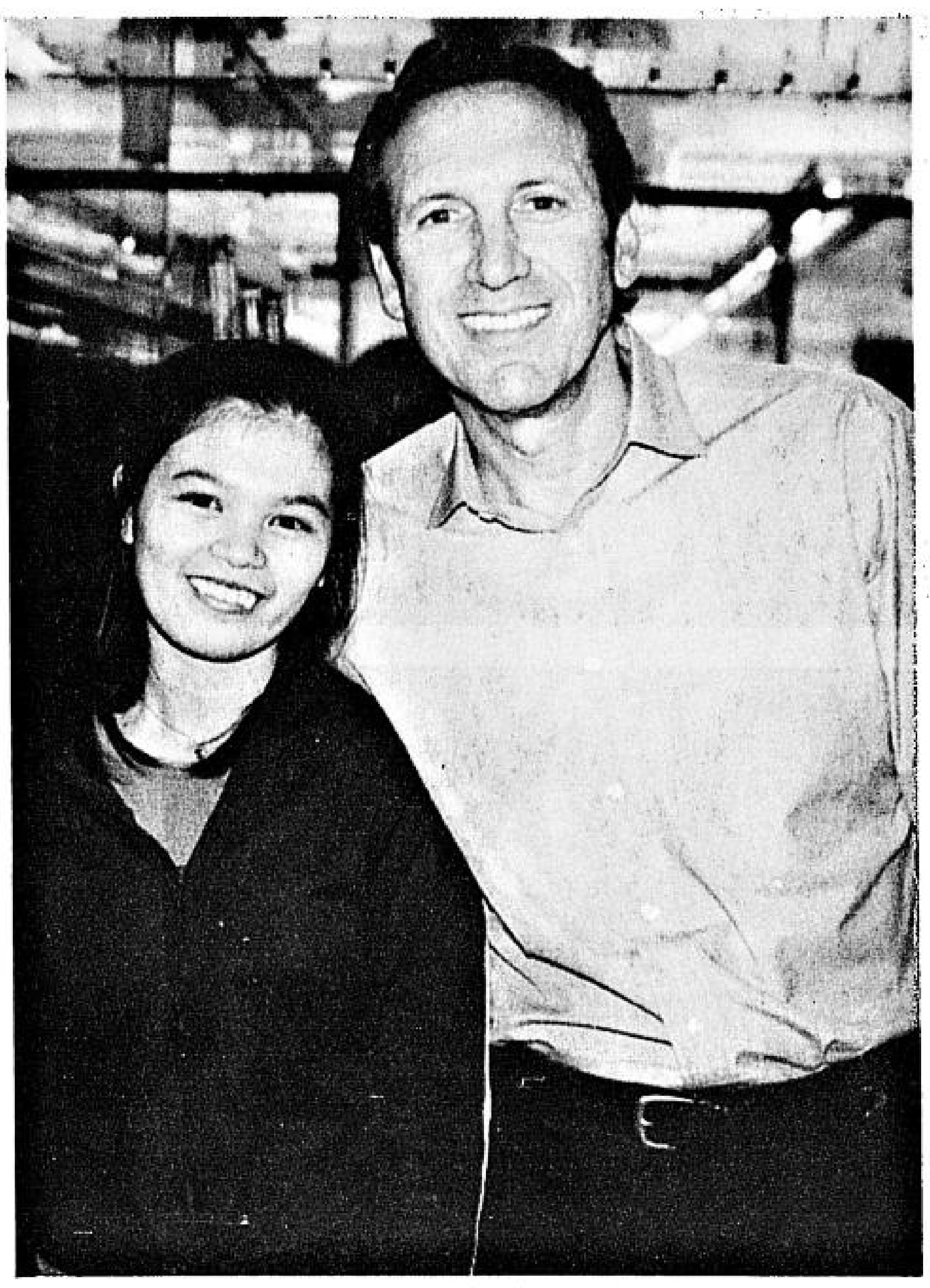
A Hotel and Restaurant Management graduate of the Dominican College in Laguna, Dagami says her role as coffee ambassador has given her the chance to enhance her relationships with co-workers and customers.

"The most memorable experience was when we conducted the first seminar in a mall. There was this young girl who approached me, kissed me on the cheek and thanked me. She was a regular customer of Starbucks and was excited to attend and learn about coffee," she recalls.

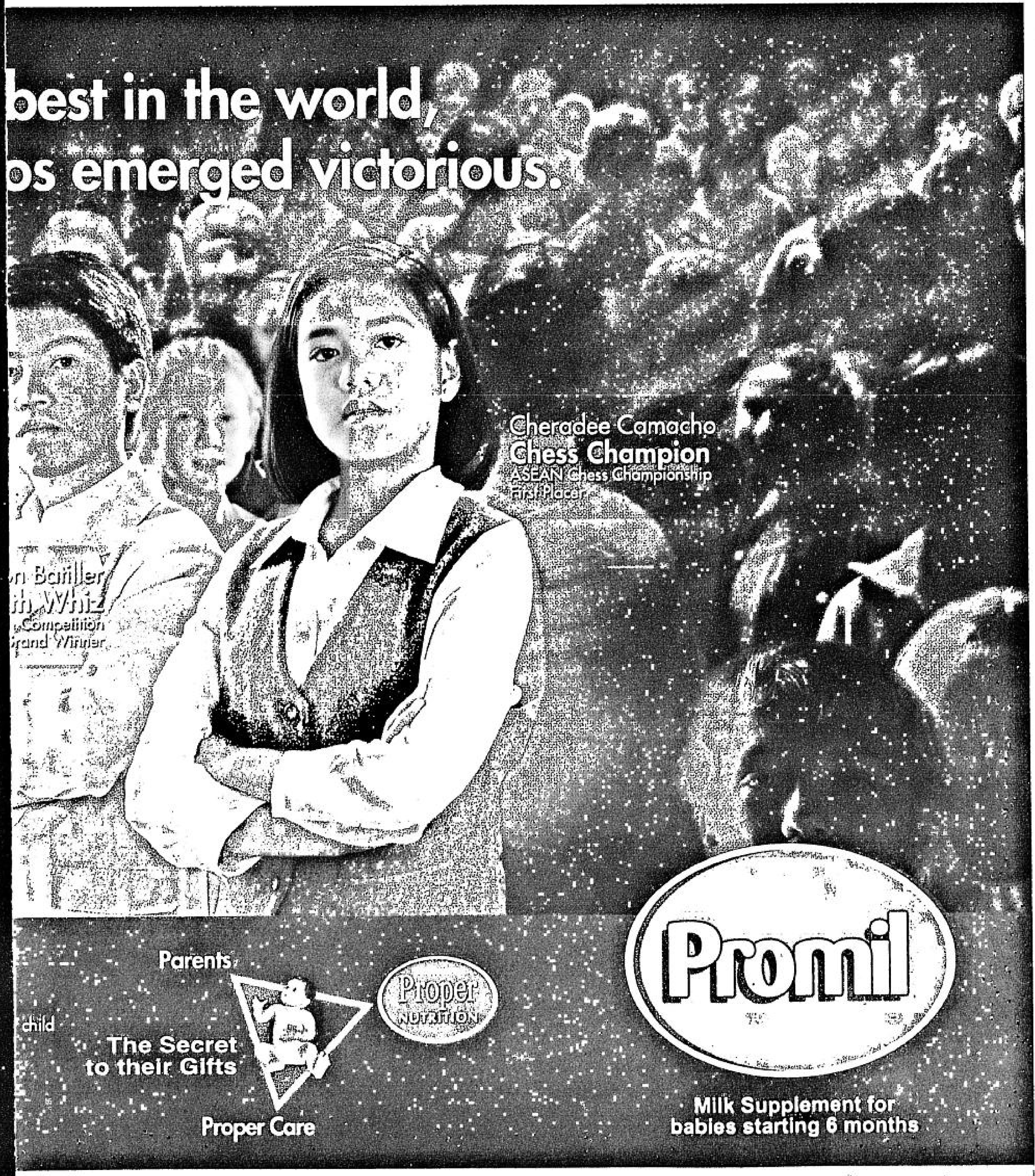
She knows coffee talk indeed, and at Starbucks, she's providing a growing number of customers with exactly what they want.

For free coffee seminars, call 8962755 or fax 8952747. You can also get forms from any Starbucks store.

E-mail the author at rburgos@inquirer.com.ph



IDA Dagami with Howard Schultz, chief global strategist of Starbucks Coffee International



Excellent service is in the details

BANQUET servicing is an art that depends on the timely execution of hundreds of details.

This penchant for details, among other factors, has made Oakwood Premier Ayala Center a favored meeting venue for corporates—from multinationals just starting up operations in the country to many of the Philippines' top 100 companies.

Members of the Australian New Zealand Chamber of Commerce (ANZCham), for instance, have been among the most loyal patrons of Oakwood's function rooms. They set up the headquarters of the ANZCham in one of the serviced offices at the luxury property in 1998 and have stayed since then because of Oakwood's convenient location and its business-friendly layout.

The function rooms on the seventh floor are set apart from the lobby, which is one floor below on the sixth. Both are one elevator ride away from the basement parking lot, ensuring minimal interphase between hotel residents and their visitors and those heading for corporate meetings.

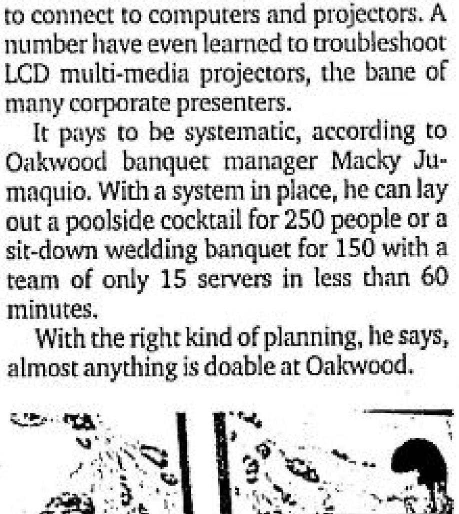
Aside from offering privacy and a subdued ambience, Oakwood is known for its good food and fine service.

Favorites at seminars and meetings are the US beef tenderloin with crushed pepper and the fillet of salmon teriyaki. When the executives decide to pull out the stops, French chef Jerome Cartailler whips up dishes such as lamb tenderloin gratinated with goat cheese, grilled jumbo prawns, "Beurre blanc" or pan-fried duck liver with mangoes, and a wicked apple pie made from scratch and topped with Häagen-Dazs ice cream.

The staff have also been trained in the art of anticipation. Many of them keep a set of extension cords and adapters handy to connect to computers and projectors. A number have even learned to troubleshoot LCD multi-media projectors, the bane of many corporate presenters.

It pays to be systematic, according to Oakwood banquet manager Macky Jumaquio. With a system in place, he can lay out a poolside cocktail for 250 people or a sit-down wedding banquet for 150 with a team of only 15 servers in less than 60 minutes.

With the right kind of planning, he says, almost anything is doable at Oakwood.



THE FUNCTION rooms of the Oakwood Premier Ayala Center have become a favorite of corporate executives.

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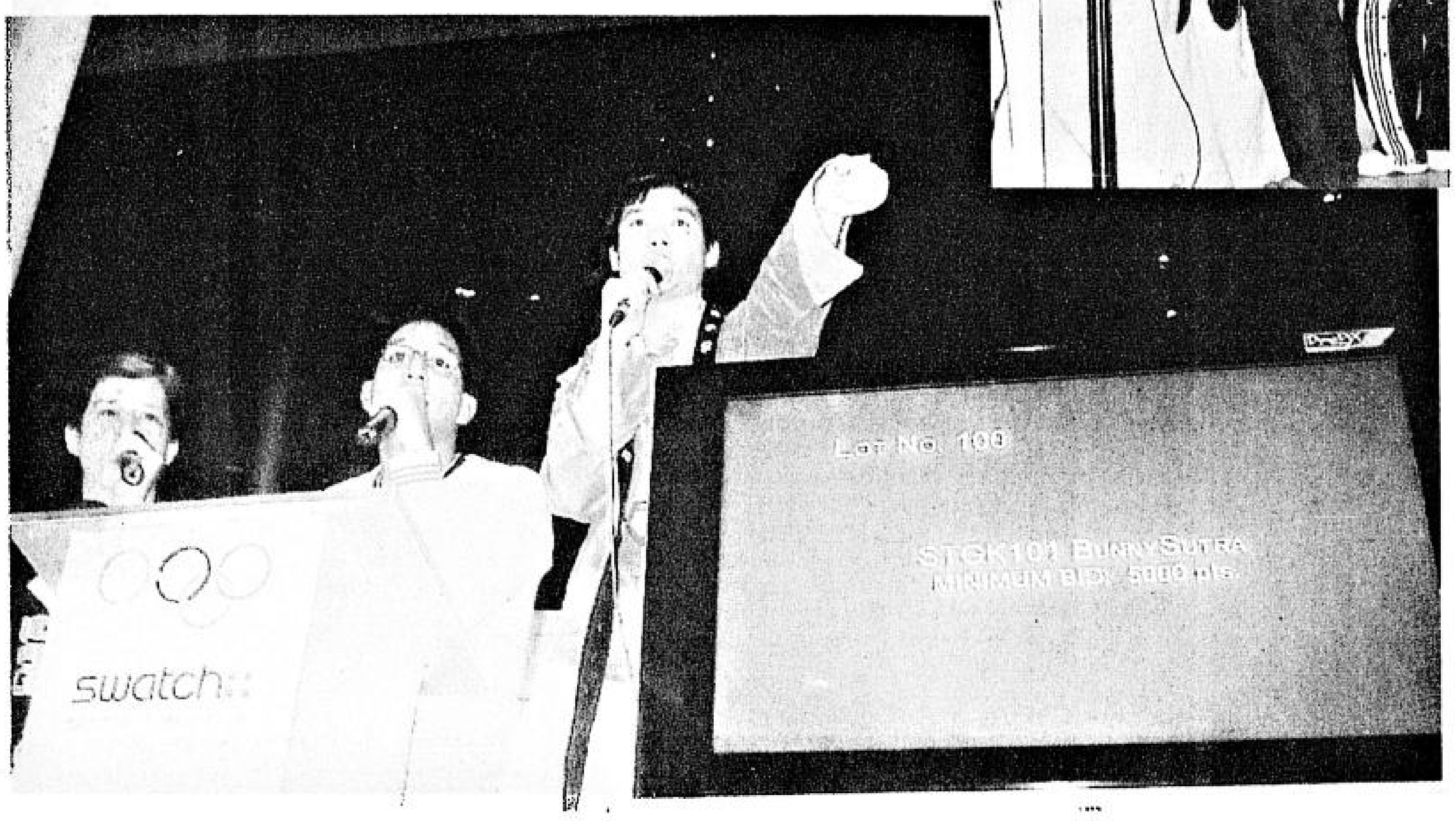
AUCTIONEERS ALL: (extreme left) Broadway actor Jose Llana, Segue designer Mai Cojuangco-Ziti and Tatler editor Anton San Diego; TV hosts Tina Revilla-Valencia (left center) and Chinggay Andrada.

SALUTE to the Salud women, Kazue, Gina and Chit, feisty bidders all.



WORKING the crowd are TV hosts Bill Velasco and Paolo Bediones and Super creative director and 2bU! partymeister Tim Yap, shown in inset trying hard to be taller than the giant JVC flat TV set that flashes info on every lot up for bidding.

Going, going, sold!

From page C1

MALE bidders folded whenever the fabulously trim Zsa Zsa Padilla voiced out her bid

Things started heating up as soon as the more popular items were put up for bidding. Bids grew at increments of 10,000 points, drawing surprise reactions even from the auctioneers.

The auction reached fever pitch when actress Maricel Soriano bid one million points for the Swatch Olympic Historical Games Collection, a beautiful keepsake set of nine watches. She had worked hard at collecting money cards during the 90-day promo period by making purchases at Gift Gate, Segue and Swatch stores because, she said, she wanted this set sooo bad.

Every P500 worth of purchase had entitled a buyer to a card worth 1000 points. The smarter buyers did their Christmas shopping early to acquire more money cards and came in groups so they could pool their points for more successful bids.

Fun frenzy

Divine diva Zsa Zsa Padilla only came for two things—the Swatch Oracolo and the Adidas David Beckham Predator Pulse Shoes. "I wanted a piece of Beckham," she quipped with a twinkle in her eye. As soon as she had wrestled the shoes and the watch from rival bidders, she quietly slipped out of the auction arena.

The other pair of Beckham's footwear went to Pepper Teehankee. The avid soccer fan also fought to the end for the Swatch Swagman black and white double watch set and two of the prized soccer ball lots—the Telstar Durlast and the Tricolore Ball, both matchballs from the FIFA World Cup 1974 and 1998, respectively.

IBC big boss Francis Lumen, on the other hand, got something for wife Mary Ann—the Swatch Plume de Fete. Architect Ed Calma looked specially thrilled by the Swatch Run Time around his neck, and the Mexico 1968 leather bag that his eight-year-old daughter Daniela wanted.

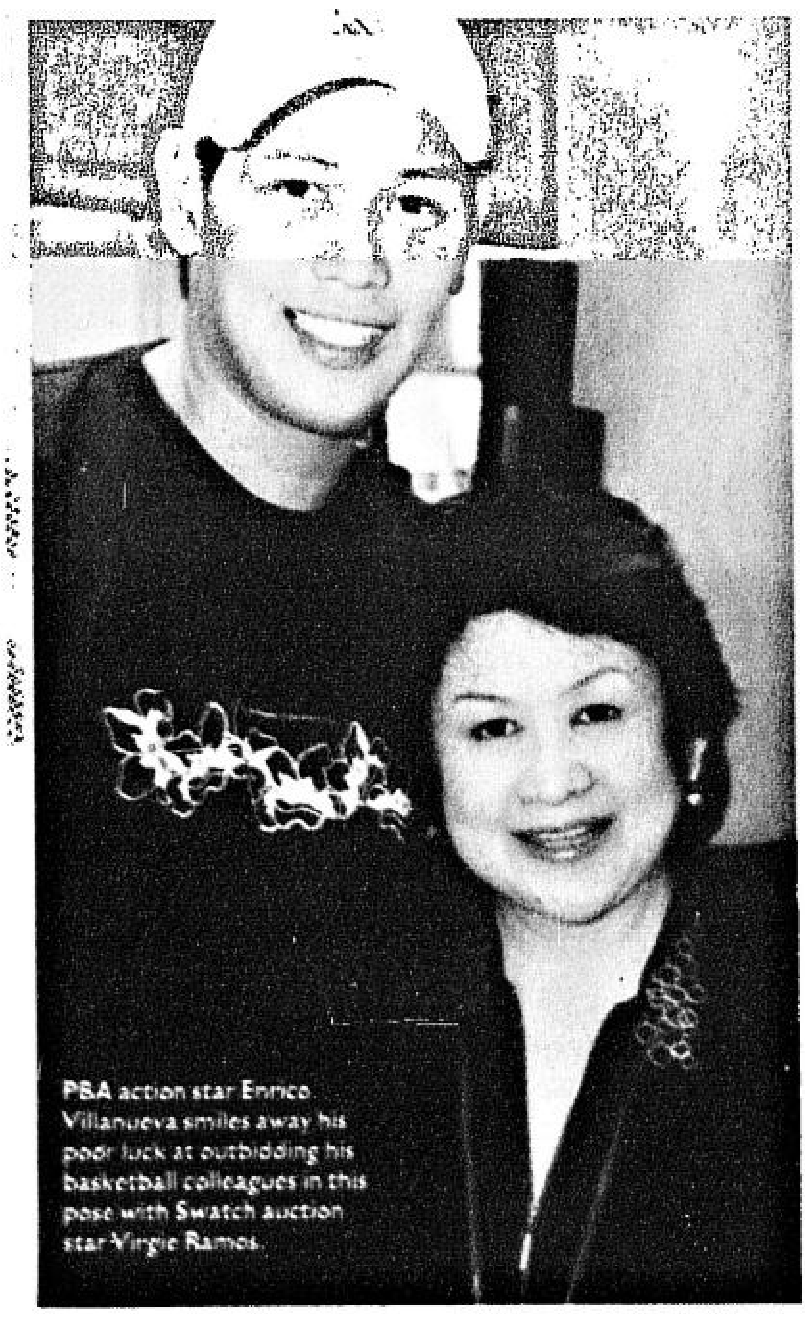
It was a frenzied atmosphere as paddles went up in the air, challenging the auctioneers to be alert and keep up. "Come on, let this be the bid to break the million mark," said Llana who not only did a good job as rabble-rouser but also entertained the guests at half-time with a song.

As the auction was coming to a close, and the last lot was being called for bids, Anton San Diego had his money cards all counted and ready to bid for the much-awaited Swatch Bunnysutra. But he was no match to Swatch big man Asi Taulava who was determined to win the Bunnysutra for himself. Asi set the record for the biggest bid for the day at 1,300,000 points, having charmed almost everyone around him to donate their remaining money cards to him, including chef Jessie Sincioco who came too late to bid for the Borgy Manotoc autographed shirt and watch.

In the end, the Sports Time event taught a lot of auction first-timers how to enjoy the tension of friendly competition and to appreciate the value of pooling resources together. People went home with their most cherished Swatch or Adidas memorabilia, and Sports Time came to a close on a happy note.

ROSE Libongco goes for chic with the Swatch Veruschka

SWATCH big man Asi Taulava does not have to talk and text to place the highest bid for a Swatch Bunnysutra as Anna May cheers him on.



PBA action star Enrico Villanueva smiles away his poor luck at outbidding his basketball colleagues in this pose with Swatch auction star Virgie Ramos.

PR pro Susan Joven (above) flashes a victor's smile with her Swatch Olympic Centennial Games set; (right) father and son Craig and Harrison Reines hold on to their Adidas Finale ball

1974
adidas

ADIDAS Tricolore ball for social chronicler Pepper Teehankee

A-TEAM Mr. and Mrs. Bill Velasco with Adidas marketing's Angge Suiza and Keren Pascual

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PANASONIC FJ display rack in SM Appliance in Megamall

PPH director K. Uehigashi, B. Sarangaya, H. Umeda, M. Tenmatay, PPH president Rodolfo Perez, Mepco president S. Fukami, K. Nimura, Mr. Inukai, T. Fujii and S. Saito at the commemoration of the first delivery of Panasonic FJ Series Flat TV

RIBBON-CUTTING with PPH president Rodolfo Perez and Peter Henri Ng of Anson at Anson Emporium in Pasay Road

RIBBON-CUTTING with PPH president Rodolfo Perez and Abenson's Wilson Lim at Abenson Shangri-La Edsa Plaza branch

Panasonic
ideas for life
elegance in synchronicity

PANASONIC van on the way to its first delivery of FJ series

New range of flat TVs launched

THE FIRST batch of the Panasonic Flat TV FJ T (tau) Series was "sent off" during ceremonies held recently at the Total Distribution Center (TDC) grounds of Mepco in Taytay, Rizal.

Mepco and PPH officials graced the occasion. They included K. Uehigashi, B. Sarangaya, H. Umeda, M. Tenmatay, Rodolfo Perez, S. Fukami, K. Nimura, Mr. Inukai, T. Fujii and S. Saito.

The event featured the blessing of the first shipment and the cutting of a cake with the FJ T (tau) Series logo .

Afterward, Mepco and PPH officials held a series of ribbon-cutting ceremonies in various Panasonic dealers—Abenson Inc. in Shangri-La Plaza, Western Marketing and SM Appliance in SM Megamall, Anson Emporium on Pasay Road and Automatic Center in Glorietta.

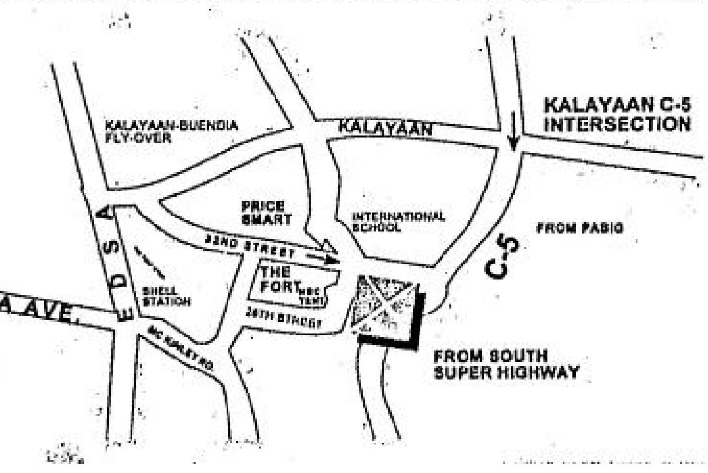
The Panasonic Flat TV FJ T (tau) Series is the company's latest top-of-the-line range of flat television sets. It has Multi-Television Sound that can get stereo signals from both broadcast and audio-video source, and a five-band equalizer that allows a choice from three preset sound settings (Music/News/Cinema).

The Virtual Hyper Bass (VHB) Circuit provides rich, deep bass sounds by using the advance Psychoacoustic Bass Boost technology. Component video (DVD) input terminals allow direct input of signals from discs in their original format.

The Panasonic Flat FJ T (tau) Series' silver frame has a slimmer side profile than previous models. The dark screen bezel helps deepen the images to make black blacker, and white whiter.

The new Panasonic FJ T (tau) Series is now available at selected authorized Panasonic dealers in Metro Manila.

IS IT A MARKET? OR A MALL? FIND OUT ON SEPTEMBER 16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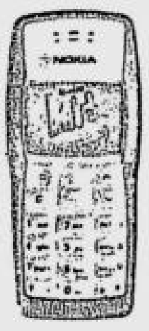
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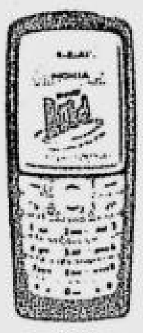
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Nokia 2300	FREE	P4,600
Nokia 2100	FREE	P4,900
Siemens C62(MMS)	P5,100	P5,400
Nokia 3100 (MMS)	P6,500	P6,800
Nokia 3200 (MMS with built-in camera)	P8,400	P8,700

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For SMART Kid simpack, one (1) month advanced Monthly Service Fee (MSF) is required. Pre-termination charges applies for phonekits and simpacks when contract is discontinued.

All phones under Plan 300 are available under 12-month contract period except for Motorola C200 (under 18-month contract period), and Motorola C375 (under 24-month contract period). Phones under Plan 600 not included under the FREE Phones promo are available under 12-month contract period.

** Applicable only to SMART calling other networks' landline, NDD. Rates are inclusive of VAT and Foreign Currency Adjustment (FCA). Consumable amount covers voice calls (local, NDD), text (local and international text), and VAS. Free text allocation applies to local text messages (SMART to SMART and SMART to other local networks).

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Promo runs from September 4 to 30, 2004 only.

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For questions, comments or concerns, you may call the SMART Hotline at 888 1111; send a text message to 888 (standard rate in excess of the FREE TEXT allocation applies); email us at smartkid@smart.com.ph. Visit our website at www.smart.com.ph, or visit the SMART Wireless Center nearest you. See flyers for more details.

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The king of paradise: A fairytale for repressed adults

By Gilda Cordero Fernando

THE ISLAND kingdom of Papanu was comprised of four provinces and a fertile valley. The region to the north, Puripuri, who sang nothing but praises to the king, grew betelnuts. The province of Mambu, to the south, made wooden drums of all sizes. The craft of Bilom, to the west, was string bags for carrying melons and babies. To the east was a fertile valley, as perfectly round as a green bowl, which produced all the food for Papanu. These were: sweet potatoes, rice, coconuts, sugarcane, squashes, mangoes, papayas, star apples and especially coffee. The coffee of Vigo, as the valley was called, was famous throughout the Pacific. All the neighboring islands would rather drink it and sell their own.

For a time, the four provinces had small wars with one another until the reign of the present king. As the first Christian king of Papanu he was able to keep the peace, with only a little grumbling from Mambu, the home of the drum makers whose inhabitants were not only sorcerers but reformed cannibals. There were only two hundred of them, the rest having been eaten.

The keynote of the king's reign was self-sacrifice. To this end he ate his cakes without sugar and his potatoes stone-cold. His shoes were made out of the roughest pineapple skins and his cape was sack cloth and ashes. He wore a magnificent crown of 4-inch nails. The king lived atop an extinct volcano in a beautiful castle constructed out of millions and billions of thorns. But the beautiful turrets had been sawn off (the king felt they were too lavish) and the romantic drawbridge converted into kitchen tables.

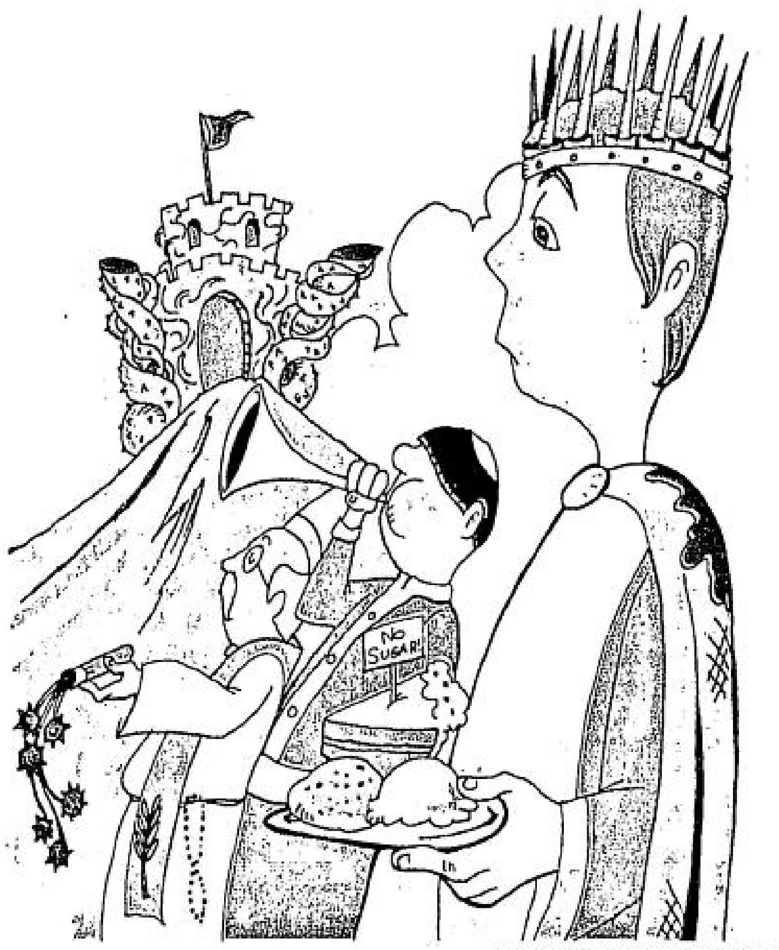
To the letter

The king was respected by all his subjects—well, almost all—who obeyed him to the letter for fear of burning in eternal fire. For example: everyone in the kingdom was lean and trim. The poor worked hard all day, and the rich exercised all day, for to have an ounce of fat was against the law. There was a very low crime rate in Papanu because anyone arrested was turned over to the high priest, who could go on the pulpit and give a sermon all day. The high priest was such a boring sermonizer that the listeners could feel their ears literally falling off from boredom.

Most of the guilty pleaded a sentence of hard labor instead (anyway the inhabitants were so fit there was no such thing as hard labor). But it would not do—the sentence was still to be tied to a stool and listen to the high priest whose record sermon was 68 days. And he was only the high priest! There was still a higher priest and a highest priest who could go on and on and on. At the end of one of the highest priest's sermons the janitor had to sweep one dozen ears that had detached from boredom and littered the floor.

At dawn, in the coldest, foggiest days of January, the king would march to the seashore with his retinue and would together plunge into the icy sea. When it was 90 degrees in the shade in summer, however, they took communal baths in the hottest hot spring. With rough, round stones they scrubbed and scrubbed their bodies. Some of the bathers were permanently lobster-red or

THE KING/ D2



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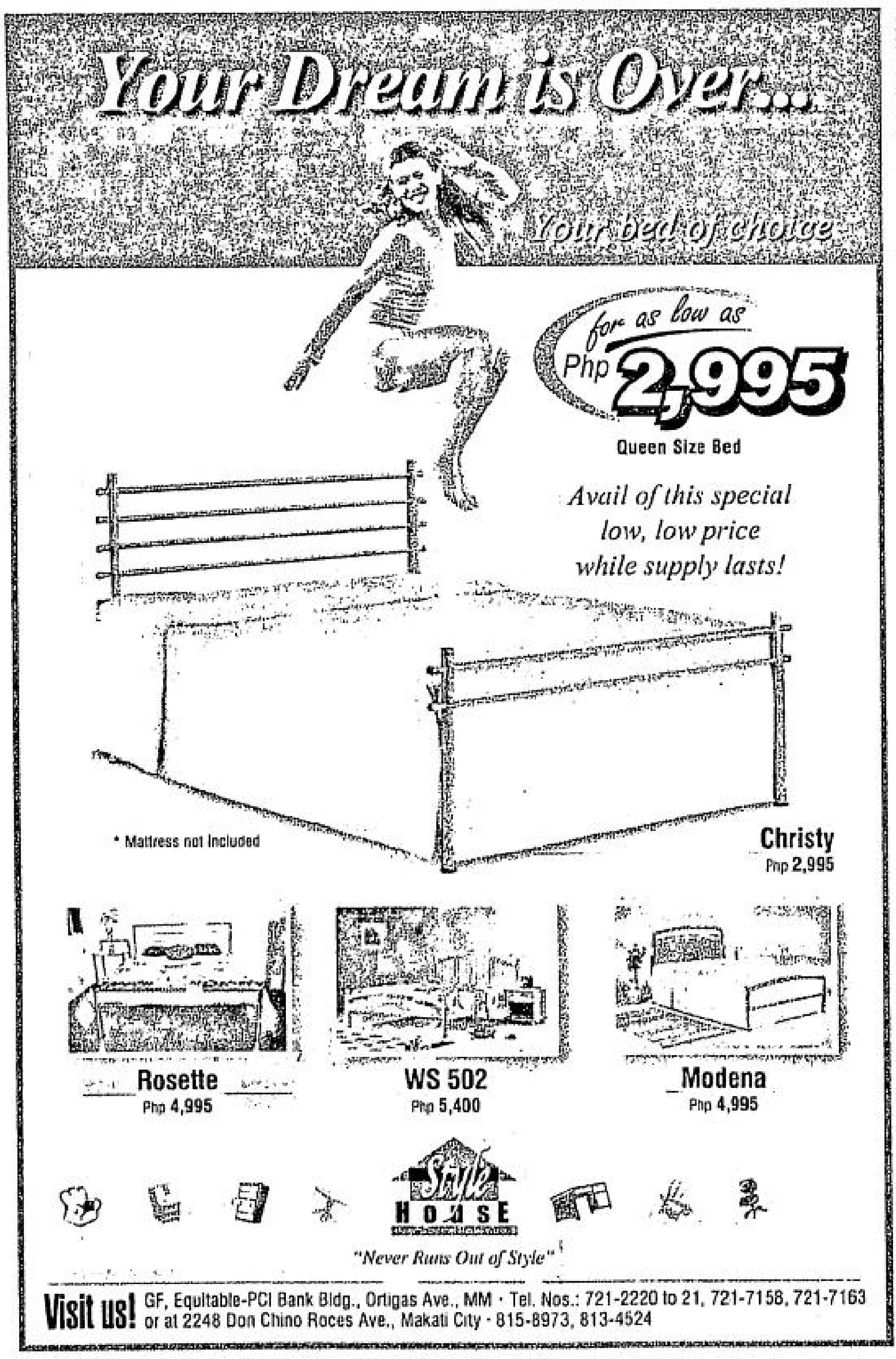
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ILLUSTRATIONS BY ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

The king of paradise. . .

From page D1

already down to their second skin. The most dedicated, in fact, had portions of their skin so thin that veins could be seen with the blood running. That's how good they were.

The king believed that, like a candle, one could burn out with hate and anger, but most mortally of all, with love. (He had seen too much love fail in his life). Indeed he had banished all those useless feelings from his heart. When he was particularly happy he made sure he slept on a bed of nails that night. He fasted and whipped himself black and blue but when no halo appeared atop his head, he worried, and walked back and forth on another bed of live embers.

The king's background: his father, the former king, had been killed by his uncle, his father's oldest brother, who had fallen passionately in love with his mother, Asila. His mother, however, refused to marry the malevolent uncle. With her young son (the present king) she eloped one full moon with a half-witted cousin who eventually drove Asila mad. The uncle who ruled in his father's stead married a lewd sister-in-law who gave birth to a big hairy spider. But matters somehow corrected themselves and when he was 21, the present king found himself the king of Papanu. The uncle drank hemlock or something like that.

"I will never look back," the king vowed. (Actually he was afraid of turning into a pillar of salt.) The new king was fond of telling his subjects, "You are free, you can do anything you want, anything at all, except fall in love."

Visitation

Four times a year the king made a visitation to the four regions of Papanu. From his castle of thorns on the top of the volcano (with the sawn-off turrets and drawbridge made into kitchen tables), the king and his entourage took the journey on foot. Since they had been fasting for 40 days some of the subjects collapsed and were eaten by wild beasts (but of course the king was unaware of this because he swore never to look back). They had no trouble at all passing through Puripuri, the red-lipped betelnut province, and none in Bilom, the string bag making region who were too cross-eyed from their work to think.

The king grew aware that they were nearing Vigo, being already in the adjoining region of Mambu, the drum makers. The king was amazed at how ramshackle Mambu looked, its roofs patched with old pockets and dried chicken bones. The province of the former sorcerers had secretly lived on the export of rare plumage from their exotic birds. But now there were no more feathers. The exotic birds perched on the trees completely naked, not a feather on! The chief of Mambu was roasting a field rat when the king passed by. The chief scurried on fours and kissed the dry toasted ground the king had trod upon. But the king just walked on with a bitter smile.

His Majesty fancied himself an extremely good king but somehow the valley of Vigo (lately ruled by a woman) made him feel uneasy. Vigo was just too lush, too fertile. There were too many butterflies and busy bees and too much pollen. Even the bats excreted too much guano. On his first visit there the king squirmed to see how shamelessly the cows loved the bull. The clams lay on their backs in the warm sand and multiplied. The papayas turned their backs to the sun and ripened, but there was much too much to harvest so they dried up and the seeds fell off, creating thousands of other little papayas.

Every evening the magical whirlwind of Vigo swept fallen fruits and leaves and flowers (and an occasional dead parrot or bat) into a ball and deposited it into the deepest, uninhabited part of the valley. The rains rotted them all, making the valley's soil the richest in the Pacific.

It was rumored that its chief, Leli by name, was closely related to the goddess of fertility and the cause of it all. On full moons, it was said, she led the natives in a serenade to the plants. Their bamboo flutes played the music the flowers and the fruits loved and so they grew as large as plates and tea kettles. In May, during the coffee season, there was fire and dancing in the plantations to the beat of hand drums. As a result the coffee beans grew so fat and rich and tasty that only one bean was required to brew a cup.

And so sales declined. The economy fell. The inhabitants needed only 31 beans per month of breakfasts. (There were no coffee houses yet). Sacks of coffee delivered to the neighboring islands were sent back. The sacks sat on top of one another and rotted on the barges. What a problem!

As they drew closer the king observed what a muchness of muchness the valley was! He saw a man cutting the grass on one side of his garden and on the other side it was already growing. It was the same with the men's beards. At his approach peas popped out of their pods in sheer joy. The geese and the turkeys lay their necks on the ground offering to be the roast for the royal lunch. Even the flowers put their faces on the paths hoping to be cut for decoration. The king was determined to stop such excesses.

Young and lovely

Carrying an *anahaw* leaf umbrella, under a fruit-laden arch that marked the village entrance, stood Leli, the chief of Vigo, waiting to welcome the king. She was young and lovely (or maybe old and eternal). His Majesty could see flashes of her thighs and breast through the soft reed gown she was wearing and quickly put on his black sunglasses. With his crown of 4-inch nails he looked real cool.

Before he could say a word, Chief Leli took him under the shade of her umbrella and plopped a plump, juicy lychee into his mouth. It was so delicious the king wondered how he could atone for it.

But business first. The king sat in the village council hall and listened to the dismaying reports on Vigo's overproduction of coffee that was ruining the economy.

At the end of it, he said, "I decree that the coffee beans of Vigo not grow bigger than normal, bird songs not go above a certain note and the pollen not travel. Vigo has to learn discipline."

Chief Leli's face fell. "How can I do that, Your Highness?" she asked.

"A good ruler must be able to control everything," said the king.

"Your Majesty, I need help. What do you think makes everything grow so fast here in Vigo?" Leli asked.

"Maybe you pamper the plants too much. Maybe you love everything too wildly—it encourages er-er-reproduction. We could become a truly poor kingdom amid so much plenty. And you will be responsible for such a disaster. But first, what can you suggest we do with the coffee rotting on the barges?"

Leli stopped to think. "Well," she dimpled, "we could throw them overboard. The fish would have a fill of our great coffee, they will be drunk with joy and somersault for weeks on end and, and—"

"Lay more eggs!" The king's eyebrows knitted so tightly that he couldn't unknot them. "And what do you propose we do with the little baby fishes that will result from this—this Boston Tea Party?" asked the king sarcastically.

"We can send the fishes to countries that need them. The retired sorcerers can help by directing them how to swim to Bangladesh, Biafra and Smokey Mountain."

"All for free?"

"How else?"

"It could be a loan. A 20-year loan, with papers."

Chief Leli was used to the king's idea of charity. "Your Majesty they will be doing us a favor. Why don't we pay them instead?"

The king could feel the beginnings of a nasty headache when the banquet was served. Girls in hula skirts served a pigeon stuffed into a capon, stuffed into a roast pig. There was a chickadee stuffed into a duck, stuffed into a goat, stuffed into a roasted calf. The king praised the meal but felt sick. He raised his glass for a toast. "Joy is a serious crime that I am outlawing as an economic measure," said the king to his shocked audience, "And I want to see that in effect by my next visitation."

Chief Leli merely smiled and led the king to the visitor's chamber. "You must be very, very tired, your Highness, after walking such a long distance. You must take a rest before you go and all your men too."

Feather bed

With great alarm the king saw that the bed in the visitor's chamber was lined with feathers of peacocks and pheasants and had a mosquito net of intricate cobwebs. But he was just too tired to protest. Before he knew it his head was sinking into a soft pillow of canary feathers. Chief Leli took a silk fan, stirring the air around so that his royal Highness could sleep and singing him lullabies that he had never heard from his luckless mother. Before his stony eyelids dropped it dawned on the king that fertility might be Vigo's form of subversion.

A few hours later the king woke up feeling that he had been given a fiery kiss in his sleep. But by then Chief Leli was all protocol. "I shall try my best to do His Highness' bidding," she said, curtsying.

The king's party walked double quick back to the castle on top of the dead volcano. His Majesty could hardly wait to shut all the casements and walk on his bed of embers.

The weeks that followed were devoted by the king to erasing Chief Leli from his mind. But he would catch himself smiling at odd moments and humming under his breath. For how could he forget her when, before departing, she had put in a box for him to take home: the air of a silk fan, the song of a bird, the light in her eyes, a stolen kiss and a moment of eternity. The king had himself buried up to his neck in a pit of pig slop and swore never to step into any woman's domain again.

Barely had a month passed, however, when news was brought to the castle that there was trouble in Vigo. Vehicles were detouring before they could reach the coffee village and it had been happening all day.

The king could hardly contain himself. He put his pants on backward and forgot to wear his crown of nails, in such a hurry was he to get to the root of the trouble. He ordered his vassals to clean up the royal carriage with sooted windows (so he could avoid looking at nice landscapes) and prepare the horses. The entourage was only too happy they did not have to go on foot.

It was indeed a nasty traffic jam. The carriages and oxcarts were at a standstill all the way to Mambu and Bilom. Some were detouring as far as Puripuri. So tight was it that a number of carts had to hurl themselves down the precipice in order to make the king's passage possible.

Hundreds of curious people were milling at the entrance of Vigo. The source of trouble: a monster yam, as huge as a mountain boulder, was blocking the road. People could not decide whether to send the root crop to "Believe it or Not by Ripley" or to eat it.

In love

His Majesty saw Chief Leli waiting worriedly by the roadside, looking like a lily dropped from the sky. The king noted at once that her eyes were filled with longing as were his own, and that her arms ached to hold him, as did his own. He realized immediately the reason for the problem. Chief Leli was in love! And the more in love she was the more fertile the land became.

Just then, a man broke out of the crowd and lunged at the king's neck with the tusk of a boar. Luckily the police of Vigo were quick enough to prevent the assassination and were soon pinning the wriggling culprit to the ground. It was the rainmaker. "Oh no!" Chief Leli exclaimed. The rainmaker was a most mild-mannered man from whom one never expected such rage.

The king couldn't imagine why anyone would want to kill such a self-sacrificing king like him. He was so rattled that he had to hold on to Chief Leli for support. "We tried, oh, we really tried!" said Leli sadly, tears streaming down her cheeks as the rainmaker was tied up from head to toe and dragged to the town house for interrogation. The king hated crying and sighing and kissing and those things but he couldn't do anything to stop Leli's tears.

Everyone followed everyone to the town hall. The rainmaker was put on a high stool for everyone to see. The high priests pushed eagerly around him preparing kilometric sermons in their heads.

"Why did you want to kill the king?" asked the Chief of Police, training a mirror that reflected the sun into the man's eyes.

Happy people

"Everyone knows why!" answered the rainmaker. "I am exhausted trying to make it storm to spoil the crops. To smother the buds, I have to cover the branches of every tree with woven mats. I whistle for wind all day to shake down the flowers till my lungs collapse. But the coffee trees keep blooming and blooming and the fruit trees fruiting and fruiting and the pigs and chickens and birds and bees multiplying. Because the inhabitants are happy in spite of its being prohibited. And that stirs things up. The people of Vigo always find something to be happy about in spite of such a bad king."

The king of Papanu couldn't believe what he was hearing. He was so shocked his hair began to fall in tufts. He felt he would dissolve into a pool of Jell-O.

"Does anybody else here feel the same way?" asked the clueless Chief of Police. The inhabitants started shuffling their feet and looking up at the ceiling.

"Ho, there!" The jail warden had suddenly discovered that one of the filing cabinets in the town hall had plant tendrils crawling out of the sides of the drawers and desperately curled around the pulls. The Chief of Environment tried to slink out but was immediately collared. The drawers were pulled open revealing many prize plants stuffed together and gasping for breath.

"So that's what you were filing behind my back!" thundered the Chief of Police at the now trussed-up Chief of Environment.

"I just wanted to preserve some of our rare plants," the culprit whined, "What if the rainmaker succeeded in killing them all?"

The police pulled open the drawers of another suspicious filing cabinet one by one. They revealed: live rare birds with brilliant plumes lying row upon row, their beaks tied with cloth bandages that were also wrapped around their bodies. "Now what's this!" screamed the Chief of Police.

"More of the same," confessed the Environment Chief, now himself angry. "How else can one stop birds from singing and flying? I haven't even begun to chase the butterflies. Anyway I'm sick of my job. I don't care if you throw me to the high priests. It's an impossible job!"

The two culprits were ordered to stand before the king. "They are subversive and obviously guilty, Your Majesty," declared the Chief of Police. "We await your sentence."

The king looked at Chief Leli to whom his arm seemed permanently glued. Slowly a smile crept to his lips. "I am sentencing you to two months of hard labor!" proclaimed the king, to the disbelief of the townspeople and the relief of the two subversives who needed to lose a couple of pounds. "Hearing dismissed!"

"What about the yam?" reminded an old villager.

Before the king could reply, a runt of a fellow with an unmanageable shock of hair, who had never before spoken in his life, sallied forth. His daddy tried to pull him back. "Don't say anything incriminating," the father pleaded. "He's a genius," the father announced to the crowd, "and geniuses never make sense!"

The king raised his hand. "Let the boy speak."

"Your Majesty, I have known how to solve the problem of Papanu since I was 4 years old," said the boy genius. "And I was wondering when your advisers would ever get to the solution. Everyone of them seems to be just too busy flogging and whipping himself. Now, about the yam. Please, may I ask suggestions from the people?"

"You may," his Majesty said.

A bent old woman raised her hand and muttered. "I'm sick of eating yams. Why don't we just chop it up into quarters to send out to the hungry people of the world?"

The organization of cooks picked up the suggestion. They volunteered to transform it into yam cakes as big as Ferris wheels so they wouldn't spoil on the voyage.

"We might as well send our extra fishes, too, and pigs and cows," volunteered the Chief of Social Welfare.

"And the bull!" said a feminist.

"Great for public relations," said the boy genius. "As for business, Your Highness, I propose that we set up a string of smart coffee houses that will serve 50 coffee blends and pastry and sandwiches. So that people will want coffee not just for breakfast but all day long."

"The coffee house idea will be so popular that foreign countries will want them too," said the Chief of Finance enthusiastically.

"You got it!" said the boy genius. "And we will supply everyone of them our incomparable Vigo coffee beans. At 1c a cup to sell at P100 how can they resist? "

"But won't that keep people awake all night and day?" asked a witch doctor who was an insomniac.

"Then we will export our high priests," the boy genius replied. "They're better than sleeping pills."

Export quality

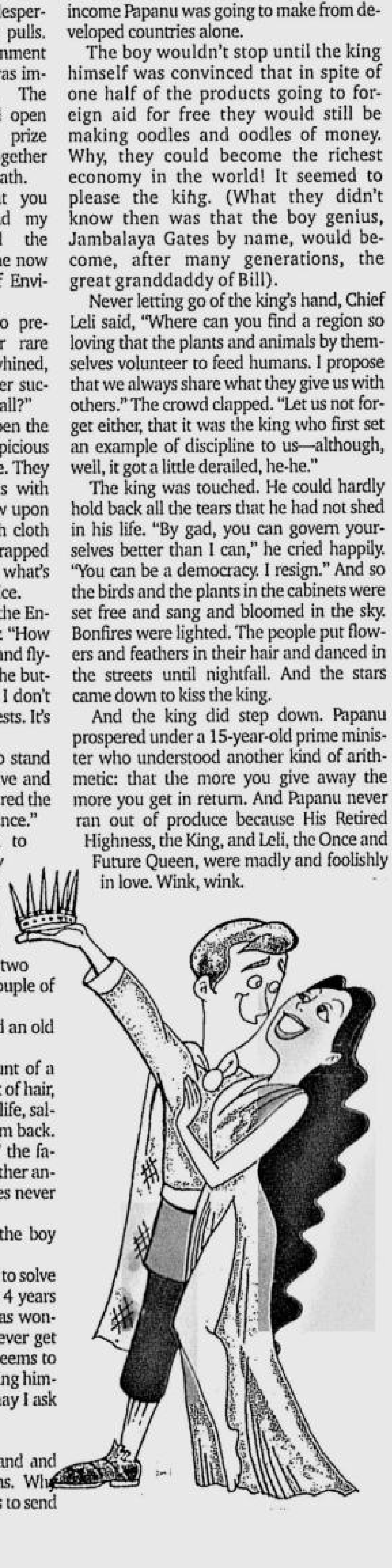
What the boy was really proposing was an "Export Quality" bureau which would handle all export of crops, livestock and fish stock, headed by himself, of course. (He was 15 years old.) The boy genius scribbled numbers and numbers and numbers which filled the blackboards and crawled up the four walls. At the end he computed all the income Papanu was going to make from developed countries alone.

The boy wouldn't stop until the king himself was convinced that in spite of one half of the products going to foreign aid for free they would still be making oodles and oodles of money. Why, they could become the richest economy in the world! It seemed to please the king. (What they didn't know then was that the boy genius, Jambalaya Gates by name, would become, after many generations, the great granddaddy of Bill).

Never letting go of the king's hand, Chief Leli said, "Where can you find a region so loving that the plants and animals by themselves volunteer to feed humans. I propose that we always share what they give us with others." The crowd clapped. "Let us not forget either, that it was the king who first set an example of discipline to us—although, well, it got a little derailed, he-he."

The king was touched. He could hardly hold back all the tears that he had not shed in his life. "By gad, you can govern yourselves better than I can," he cried happily. "You can be a democracy. I resign." And so the birds and the plants in the cabinets were set free and sang and bloomed in the sky. Bonfires were lighted. The people put flowers and feathers in their hair and danced in the streets until nightfall. And the stars came down to kiss the king.

And the king did step down. Papanu prospered under a 15-year-old prime minister who understood another kind of arithmetic: that the more you give away the more you get in return. And Papanu never ran out of produce because His Retired Highness, the King, and Leli, the Once and Future Queen, were madly and foolishly in love. Wink, wink.



FRANCIS and Mary Anne Lumen with Mon del Rosario, marketing services manager, and Charmaine Canillas, Petron advertising manager

JO Pojol, Petron Fleet Card sales manager; Khalid D. Al-Faddagh, Petron president; Lino Lebron, Circle Transport president; Edna Mamuyac, Circle Transport marketing manager; Mon del Rosario, Petron marketing services manager; and Ramil Carmen, Petron cards group manager

Musical show presents innovative fuel card

PETRON Corp. recently brought together more than 800 guests, including well-known personalities and top executives of the country's leading companies, at the Le Pavillon to introduce its new product called the Petron Fleet Card.

Fleet Card is a revolutionary product that allows individuals or companies to transact any time in Petron service stations nationwide without any offline worries. It processes data immediately, is tamper-secure and can be customized to suit the company's specific fleet requirements such as setting limits to control gasoline expenses.

The card also has exclusive privileges such as product rebates, roadside assistance, free items through the Loyalty Incentive Program and discounts on services.

Petron Corp. president Khalid D. Al-Faddagh says, "The new, intelligent and value-loaded Petron Fleet Card gives unparalleled convenience. Whether you gas up, purchase products or avail of services from Petron stations, PFC gives you the convenience of a credit card minus the hassles of waiting longer for approval of transactions since it is online all the time."

Soothing music from instrumental group Da Capo greeted the guests during cocktails, while baladeer Jed Maddela serenaded the crowd with Broadway classics. An audiovisual production followed, with Pops Fernandez taking center stage to do a mini concert.

As an added treat, event host TJ Manotoc gave away prizes such as hotel accommodation at the Mandarin Oriental, Samsung D410 videophone, a trip for two to Boracay and another trip for two to Singapore.

Seen at the party were Petron Fleet Card sales manager Jo Pojol, marketing services manager Mon del Rosario, cards group manager Ramil Carmen and advertising manager Charmaine Canillas; Circle Transport president Lino Lebron and marketing manager Edna Mamuyac; CardTrend Malaysia executive KK Low; Ayala Systems president Gerry Favila; Asia Brewery Inc. COO Michael G. Tan; NBC president and CEO Francis Lumen with wife Mary Ann; Transport Services manager Susan Salazar; General Milling Corp.'s Poshan Dy and Kraft Phils.' Karl Yao.

Call 32-8863175 or PLDT toll free no. 1-800-10-PETRON1 or visit www.petron.com.

POPS Fernandez and Petron chair Nick Alcantara

Unicef cites new role models for Asian youth

THE UNITED Nations Children's Fund (Unicef) cited 12 Filipino volunteers as models for other Asian youth.

The young Filipinos, the first participants of the Unicef Volunteer Intern Program (VIP) in the Philippines, managed to raise, in just six weeks, P300,000 for needy Filipino children, using only their time and creativity.

Colin Davis, senior Unicef program officer, said the volunteers set an example that other young individuals all over Asia would strive to follow.

The 12 young people were from the Ateneo de Manila University, De La Salle University, University of the Philippines and University of Santo Tomas.

Initiated by Unicef and its partner agency, BCD Pinpoint, VIP aimed to encourage college students to make a difference in the lives of Filipino children during the school break.

Volunteers visited two Unicef-assisted centers in Metro Manila that were helping sexually abused children recover from their traumatic experiences.

Jay Chiu, a volunteer from UST, approached a former first lady and a presidential daughter to solicit donations. His attempt to get Imelda Marcos to donate to his cause had him surrounded by her bodyguards.

On the same day in the same mall, Chiu also spotted and asked for a donation from President Macapagal-Arroyo's daughter Luli. No bodyguards surrounded him and he found out she was already a regular Unicef donor.

Roney Ogapong of the UP said VIP helped volunteers to be better individuals and be more aware of the realities in the country, especially the plight of children.

The Unicef volunteers implemented two innovative fund-raising programs. One was the pledge solicitation program in two malls and the other an *ukay-ukay* weekend in Marikina. Their efforts drew the attention of, and donations from, Sen. Francis Pangilinan and wife Sharon Cuneta, Cherie Gil, Heart Evangelista, Diether Ocampo, Ai Ai de las Alas, South Border and Unicef national ambassador, Gary Valenciano.

Missy Gonzales of DLSU said, when they started, they expected to touch the children's lives. But the children also touched the volunteers' lives.

Jackie Tan of Ateneo student said the experience opened their eyes to the current situation of most Filipino children today. They also found out that, like them, the kids also had big dreams.

The money raised by the volunteers would help support Unicef's education programs in the Philippines.

The first group of Unicef VIP volunteers were Adrienne Lu and Jay Chiu from UST; Rachel Marquez, Alex Gutierrez, Tanya Ilacad, Julio Jose Gonzales and Jacklyn Tan from Ateneo; Roney Ogapong and Jobeth Fernandez from UP; and Missy Gonzales, Joj Lonzaga, and Marc Chua from DLSU.

Those interested to join VIP can call the Unicef hotline, 7501000.

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Society mag marks 3rd anniversary

PHILIPPINE TATLER
POWER ISSUE
THE LAST TYCOON
SOCIAL IQ QUIZ PART II

PHILIPPINE Tatler marks its third anniversary this month with the Power Issue, featuring 16 pages showcasing the movers and shakers of local politics, business, media, society, fashion, and arts and culture.

Another highlight is a new Social IQ Quiz. Are you up to date when it comes to your social know-how? Find out by taking the test.

A specially devised board game for the Tatler crowd has been added to the quiz.

The magazine also reports directly from the red carpet, as it chronicles the first-ever Director General's Ball of the Film Academy of the Philippines. The glitz and glamor of high society and local cinema are splashed in eight pages of the mag.

On a more serious note, read the inspiring story of the late Don Enrique Zobel, one of the country's foremost business leaders, in a poignant tribute.

At 240 pages, the September issue is Philippine Tatler's thickest edition ever.

Aside from the monthly premier society and lifestyle magazine, the Tatler Group has also launched "The World of Time"—a must-have for watch collectors and aficionados; "Couture"—a biannual fashion bible; and the "Philippines' Best Restaurants Guide"—the indispensable handbook to the choicest dining spots in the country.

Davao museum holds benefit concert

AS the city's ethnographical and historical center, the Davao Museum seeks to inspire interest in the arts and culture among residents of the city and beyond.

Thus, it will hold a benefit concert on Sept. 18 at 7:30 p.m. at the Marco Polo Hotel Grand Ballroom.

Titled "Musika Museo," the concert will feature J. Greg Zuniega, soprano Luz Morete-Martinez and baritone Lionel Guico.

Zuniega received his musical training at the Moscow State Conservatory and the Royal College of Music in London, and has performed classical music all over the Philippines.

A first-prize winner of the National Music Competitions for Young Artists and an alumna of the Philippine Madrigal Singers, Morete-Martinez is one of the country's leading coloratura sopranos. Baritone Guico, meanwhile, is a young but already experienced performer of opera and the musical theater.

The program will include solo piano pieces by Beethoven, Buencamino, Chopin and Williams; arias by Verdi, Strauss, Lara and Rossini; *kundiman*, Broadway selections and popular duets.

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ANSWER TO SUNDAY CROSSWORD

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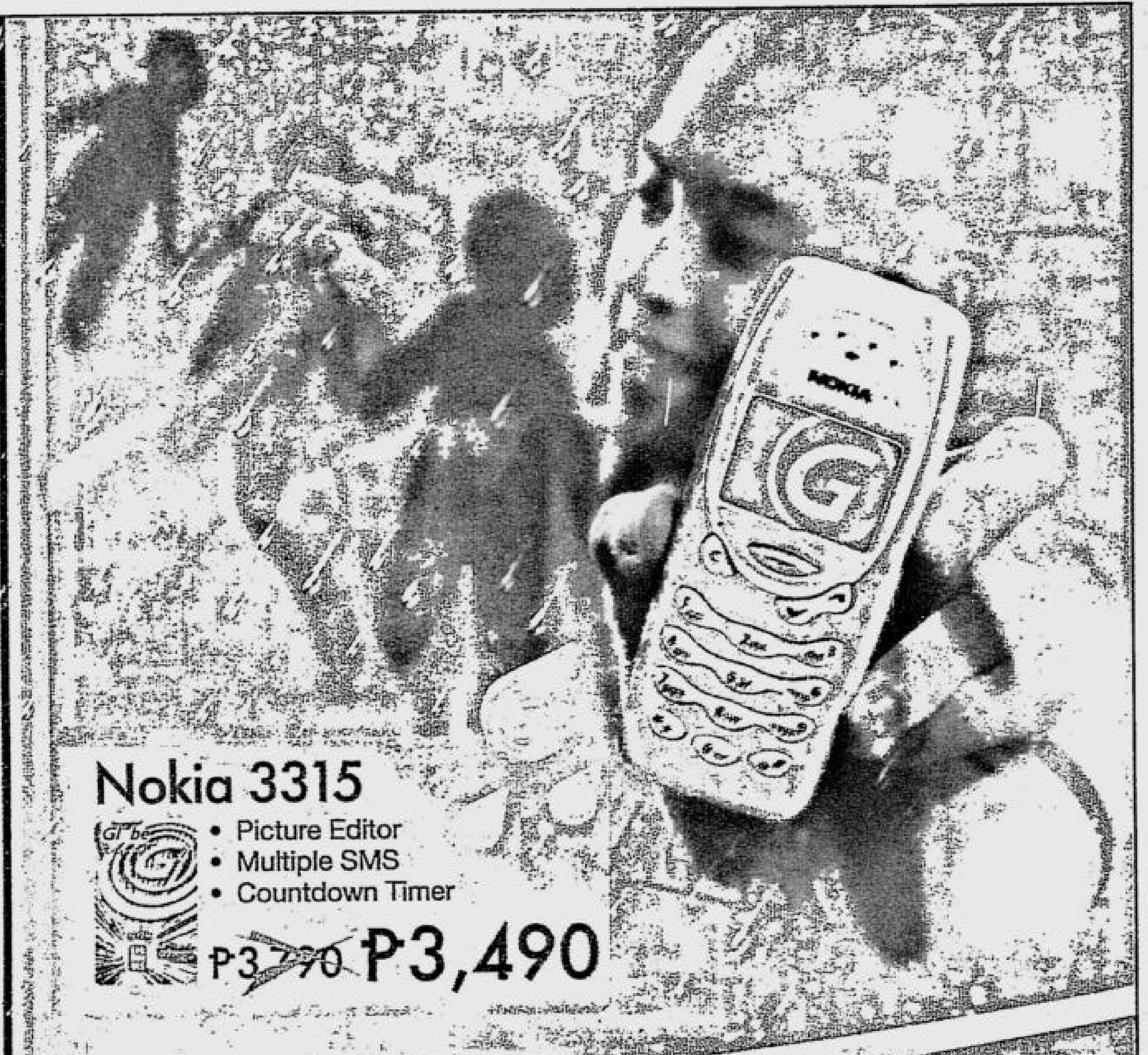

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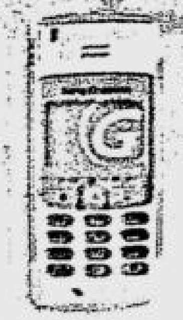

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With art, theater, food, music and books all contributing to the exciting cultural scene in the country, we must all try to get exposed to the vibe from time to time

1. STYLISH ladies—Tina Ocampo, Missy Ayala, Mia Borromeo and Carrie Uytengsu; 2. That's my new crush, Jericho Rosales; 3. Gary V.'s women—Angeli Valenciano and Gina V. Martinez; 4. Gorgeous men—Ricco Ocampo, Fred Uytengsu and Anthony Pangilinan; 5. Family affair. Photographer dad Vic Valenciano with Gina and Gary

It's still 'Wow Philippines' for me

TESSA!

Tessa Prieto-Valdes

THE CLOSING ceremonies of the 29th Olympic Games in Athens was an explosive and monumental production that showcased festive songs and dances unique to Greek culture.

There were marvelous performances by the country's top singers, cheered on by an international crowd and a cast of thousands of volunteers. The sense of a united, patriotic nation could be felt in every seat of the 72,000-capacity Olympic Stadium.

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Living like the rich and famous

HSBC Premier is probably the kind of offer you may find difficult to resist

Text and photos by Linda B. Bolido

FORGET about pyramiding.

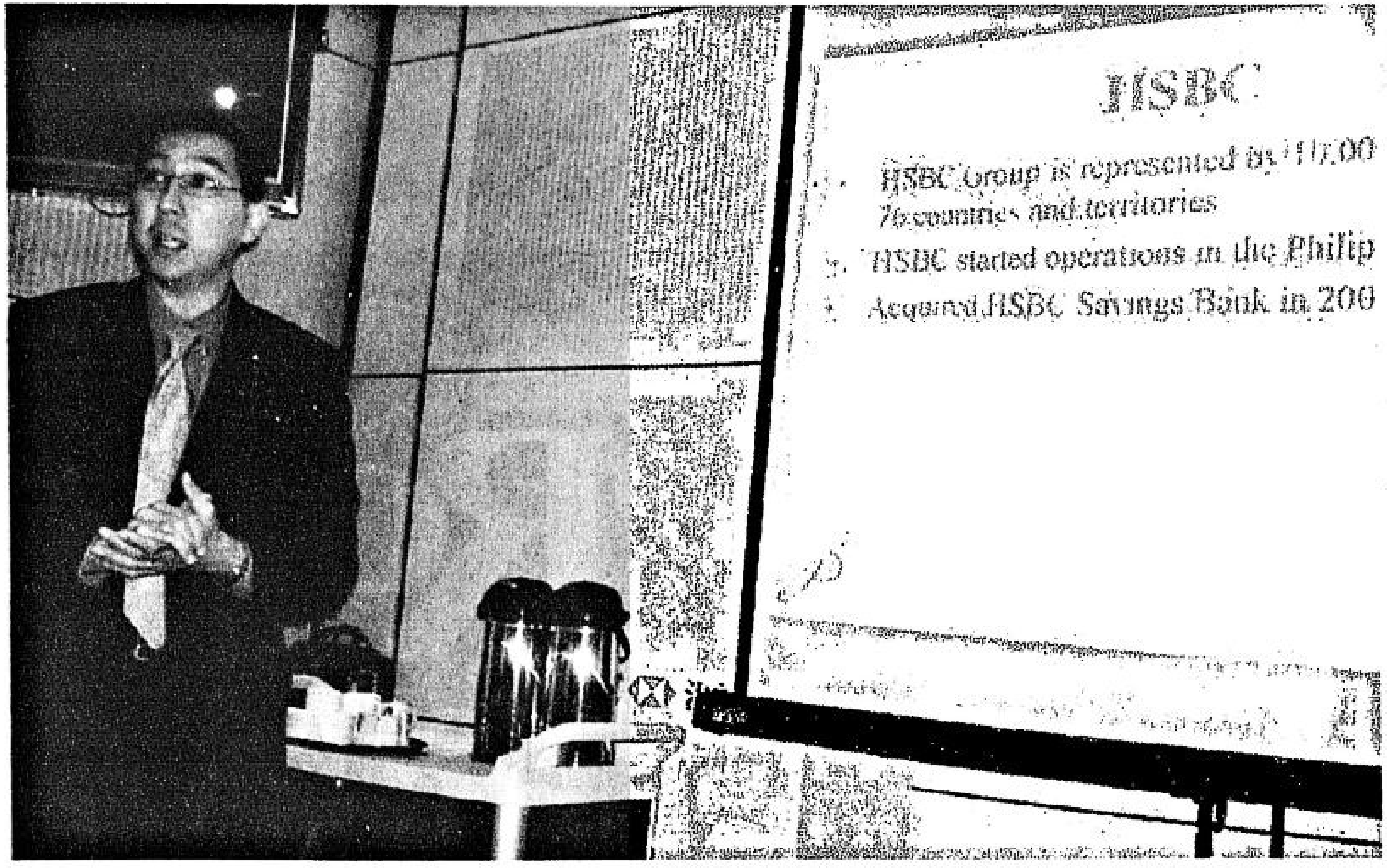
It may promise impressively high returns in double-quick time, but as many people have learned to their grief, the windfall is illusory and, instead of gold, you will end up with dross.

If you have at least P3 million, or the foreign currency equivalent, saved up after years of hard work, careful husbanding of resources—even depriving yourself of some of the good things in life just to build a modest nest—isn't it time to enjoy the lifestyle you deserve while insuring that the money you worked so hard for is safe, secure and continuing to be fruitful?

Well, the Hong Kong and Shanghai Bank (HSBC) may just have what you need. Its HSBC Premier is probably the kind of offer you may be able to refuse but definitely will find difficult to resist—make your money earn without having to give up on the good things in life because your cash is tied up otherwise. With HSBC Premier you can expect recognition, relationship and reward.

International and local

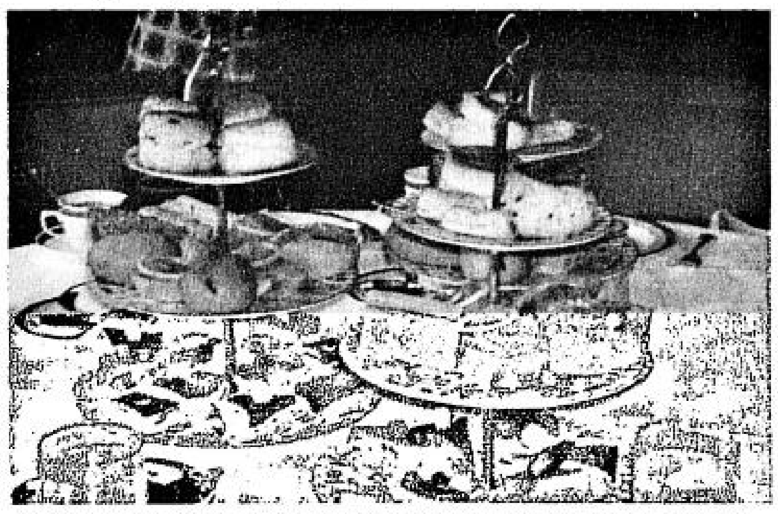
Patrick Cheng, senior vice president for wealth management, says HSBC Premier is tailored for affluent clients "in recognition of the fact that they have special and specific needs." He gives the assurance that the Filipino client, who is always looking for the personal touch, will get plenty of that. The bank may be operating internationally but it prides itself in being "the world's local bank." Every customer, who will avail of Premier's wealth management proposition, will have both HSBC's "international expertise as well as the local touch," Cheng says. You can expect to get "the highest level of personalized service" from your portfolio manager, who will guide you through the intricacies of investing your money.


HSBC
HSBC Group is represented by
76 countries and territories
HSBC started operations in the Philip
Acquired HSBC Savings Bank in 200

PATRICK Cheng, senior vice president for wealth management, says HSBC Premier recognizes that "affluent clients have special and specific needs."

AT HSBC Premier Center, staff members are ready to provide any kind of assistance, even fixing a loose screw in eyeglasses.

EVERY HSBC Premier Center offers such amenities as free coffee, including freshly made espresso, tea and cookies.



ALTHOUGH high tea at the storied Repulse Bay is heavy enough to make one want to skip dinner, the Veranda's four-course Repulse Bay Classic Menu may be difficult to resist.

The bank executive says HSBC Premier has a whole range of package for different clients and their willingness to take risks—from the most cautious to the bold and daring. But even if you are one for living life dangerously, you need not worry that the portfolio manager will take your cash bungee jumping, so to speak. Or at least not without your consent.

Your personal "financial adviser" will not leave you in the dark about what is happening to your money. "The best client is an informed client," Cheng says, so the need to keep clients thoroughly informed so they are fully guided when making decisions is impressed upon portfolio managers. He adds that clients are encouraged to ask their portfolio managers whatever they want to know.

Even if you feel you are not savvy enough to grasp fully the intricacies of international finance and investment, Cheng gives the assurance that internal checks are in place to make sure the portfolio manager does not misinform you or misrepresent facts. "I will want to check on a (portfolio manager) who seems to be doing well to make sure he/she is not misrepresenting things," Cheng says. If it turns out that the portfolio manager is really good at his/her job, then perhaps his/her techniques can be shared with the others, Cheng adds.

Gender equality

The bank also gives the assurance that every client will get the same kind of attention and service. If you are a woman, you need not worry that you will be treated like you never learned to add beyond two plus two. Cheng says in the four years that HSBC Premier has been available, women clients have proven to be just as sharp as the men.

And with HSBC Premier, you get plenty of rewards. Among other things, you can enjoy the perks of being a valued Filipino client in over 250 Premier Centers in 32 countries and territories abroad. The centers are separate from the general banking areas so you avoid the queues. They also offer such facilities as a library and Internet access, individual meeting rooms, coffee/tea service. You have global access to your funds through 24-hour personal phone banking, Internet and mobile banking and automated teller machines (ATMs).

The bank waives fees for withdrawals made in HSBC cash machines anywhere, as well as commissions for exchanging foreign currency. You get a Mastercard with a high credit limit and the lowest finance charge, without paying any annual fees for life.

THE BOYISH Ricky Cheung, sous chef of Renaissance Harbour View Hotel's Scala, promises a treat with his special six-course Chef's Surprise menu.

AS MANAGER of HSBC Hong Kong's Premier Center, Angie Y W F Wong runs a tight ship, making sure clients get the service they deserve.

Pampering

The finer things in life are equally accessible through HSBC Premier. You get invites to special lifestyle events aimed at strengthening the relationships between the bank and its clients, as well as discounts and other benefits in many establishments as part of the complementary Home & Away Privilege Program.

In Hong Kong, for instance, HSBC's corporate headquarters, if you are a Premier Master Card holder you get a 20 percent discount on food and beverage on Mondays and Tuesdays and 10 percent on Wednesdays and Sundays in all dining outlets of Renaissance Harbour View. A special treat is a six-course Chef's Surprise Menu at HK$700 +10 percent per person at Scala.

At the Aveda Day Spa and Hair Salon, you get a 50 percent discount on your first facial treatment, which has a regular price of HS$700. A 10 percent discount on regular items is also given.

The storied Repulse Bay, backdrop for some scenes in the movie "Love Is a Many Splendored Thing," offers the Veranda's four-course Repulse Bay Classic Menu for only HK$398, instead of the usual HK$540.

Instant rewards also await you if you hurry and sign up as a new Premier client before Dec. 31—or if you invest fresh funds if already an existing customer or refer others. You have a choice of luxury gifts for him, her, families or kids.

So who says you can't have your cake and eat it, too? Joining the HSBC Premier will probably seem like having a whole cake to yourself.

Call 8305200 or 7555300; fax 8865343 or visit the HSBC website: www.hsbc.com.ph.

ELENA Shi, assistant manager for sales and training, explains the special kind of pampering one gets at the Aveda Day Spa and Hair Salon.

Key to a new lifestyle

CELEBRATING the launch of Discovery Suites' new lifestyle membership program are (from left) F's Daphne Oseña, ABS-CBN newscaster Karen Davila, Discovery Suites sales manager Cathy Nepumuceno, Mossimo endorser Brent Javier, host Hans Montenegro and Discovery Suites general manager Jack Tuason.

DISCOVERY Suites has unveiled its new Lifestyle Plus card.

The launch at the Serendipity Lounge was attended by businessmen, hotel people, show business personalities, media people and others.

Discovery Suites general manager Jack Tuason welcomed guests to the event hosted by Angel Jacob. Gen Enriquez of the hotel's sales and marketing team explained the benefits of being a Lifestyle Plus member. Membership, it was explained, also automatically made one a sponsor in the schooling of a child from a selected charitable institution.

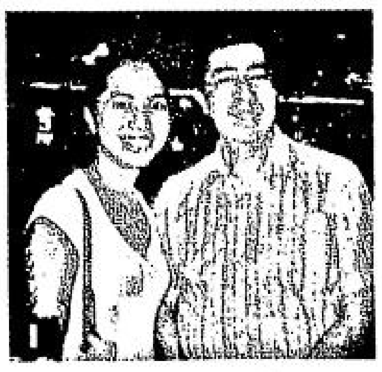
Celebrities like Daphne Oseña, Karen Davila, Ria Tanjuatco-Trillo, Nina Castro, Hans Montenegro, Patty Laurel, and Brent Javier talked about their favorite charities and got pledges from guests.

Entertainment was provided by The Company and Bituin Escalante.

The affair ended with a raffle of prizes from Mossimo, Johnnie Walker and The Foreign Post. A two-hour "Retrocoustic" act by RJ Jacinto and Cookie Chua capped the affair.

Among the benefits Lifestyle Plus members will enjoy are complimentary accommodations, room upgrades, discounts on food, beverage and local residents packages. Also included are complimentary treatments from Discovery Spa, discounted services at the 41 BC hotel business center, a complimentary overnight stay at Discovery Tagaytay inclusive of full country breakfast and afternoon tea for two persons, and discounts on purchases at Mossimo.

HOST Angel Jacob (2nd from left) is joined by ME Magazine's associate editor Mary Rose Jimenez (left), editor in chief Cathy Babao-Guballa (3rd from left), and publicist Gwen Jacinto-Cariño (right).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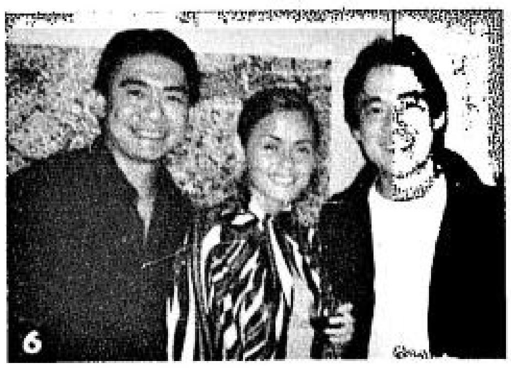
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1. FROM Asia to Africa, Tracy and Binky Dizon; 2. Artsy couple Cheryl and Joe Hironaka; 3. Show biz friends—Pinky Amador, Ernie Lopez and Mylene Dizon; 4. Wacky sisters-in-law Pinky and Eileen Grey; 5. GROUP shot at Gallery 139; 6. Successful brothers Robert and Raul Francisco with Tint's Joanna Preysler; 7. Long-time friends—Jeena Lopez, Victor Ordonez and Leana Faralles; 8. Family photo—Pinky, Herman and Vincent Grey

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It's still 'Wow Philippines' for me

From page E1

never), I'm definite we can match the Greeks' sense of pride and appreciation of local culture and put up just as good a show as they did in their Olympics.

We currently don't have the patriotism to display our flag outside the windows of our homes, but somehow we still participate in or attend the various cultural activities happening in the country.

Glory days

I didn't realize that we have quite a number of thriving events of this kind, despite the free-falling economy.

With the movie "Imelda" reminding us of the glory days of Philippine arts and culture (I am not even going to dwell on the political aspects of the movie for fear of incessant debate about what was right and wrong with the era), the local art scene has slowly come back to center stage.

An example of this was the opening of my funky artist friend **Cheryl Villanueva Hironaka**'s art exhibit at Gallery 139, where I was her sole guest of honor.

Cheryl's whimsical and candid artworks are so refreshing and amusing. I have several of her past works, and they blend so well in my equally cheerful home.

At her launch, I wore a voluminous, fuchsia shirt by **Patrice Ramos-Diaz,** with an original Hello Kitty top by **Rajo Laurel.**

Speaking of which, in celebration of the 30th birthday of the famous feline, Gift Gate queen **Virgie Ramos** asked several celebrities to jazz up Hello Kitty tee shirts. So after I wore Rajo's top, I sent it to Gift Gate to be displayed. The kids in the opening asked if I was a princess or a fruit salad of some sort.

Aside from the art scene, the theater and music worlds are thriving, too.

Ongoing is the magical play, "A Midsummer Night's Dream" at the RCBC Theater, which is a must-see. Though some Shakespeare purists might lift an eyebrow or two, the creative local version is quite ingenious by doing part of the production in Tagalog to go with the Bard's iambic pentameter, which sounds like a foreign language anyway.

Given that Shakespeare's works have been interpreted so creatively in movies and other theatrical productions, this Metropolitan Theater production should be fully supported.

Another delightful musical to watch is "Baby," where our Tony awardee and world-class artist **Lea Salonga** plays the lead role. It has hilarious takes on having a baby, gleaned through the lives of three unfamiliar couples, with excellent musical numbers exhibiting the talents of the brilliant cast.

I went backstage to greet **Agot Isidro Sandejas,** who—I was pleasantly surprised to find out—could sing. She laughed and almost hit me on the head, as if to knock some sense into me that, yes, she is a darn good singer, indeed. I really should be more familiar with my local showbiz know-how.

Mixing musical genes

That night, I met the mother of Lea, Mrs. **Ligaya Salonga**, while she congratulated her son, **Gerard,** who was the show's conductor and musical director. I asked her how she bred such gifted children, so that I might somehow lead my own in that direction.

But I think such talent has got to do with genes—which means my kids will just have to marry a Salonga to get any of that into the bloodline. My only musical talent is the "ka-ching" sound of the cash register.

Or, if my kids don't have too far a gap from **Gary V**'s children, maybe I could arrange a marriage deal with Gary and **Angeli** so we can have singing grandkids.

After watching his concert, I definitely knew talent is in the blood. Even if I got a voice coach or practiced endless hours with my karaoke buddy, **Anton San Diego,** I don't think I can do much more than make rain.

Aside from the singing talent of the Valenciano clan, Gary's father Vic is also an excellent photographer. He recently launched a book of photos of his Mr. Pure Energy son.

I had the pleasure of meeting the soft-spoken dad, who is so proud not only of Gary but of his entire brood. The personal scrapbook he made has different chapters written by each member of the family, beginning with Gary's lovely Latina mother.

The last section is a showbiz photo gallery that includes **Martin Nievera,** which proves that Gary and Martin's so-called rivalry is all showbiz make-believe.

And the funny photo alone of Pipay, everyone's friend **Pops Fernandez,** in this chapter makes the book a must-buy.

The book launch was held in the stylish home of long-time friends, **Ricco** and **Tina Ocampo** of Anonymous fame. Their house is perfect for events like this, and has so much of their shared personalities and characters.

I had just come from my new passion, a flamenco class with master teacher **Ginajane Grey,** and didn't have time to change because I also had a sit-down dinner at Jacques Dupasquier's house later that evening. Needless to say, I was the first to arrive at Ricco and Tina's place, right at the time specified on the invite. Just shows that we can all improve!

Culinary flurry

Even the food arena has some specials going on. For instance, the restaurant of HSBC Red Girl, **Melissa Sison,** has a wine-tasting event with Premier Wines at MyLK in Greenbelt. Good Earth Restaurant, owned by **Ana Martha Moreno,** is opening this week in Ortigas. And I am sure much more is happening on the culinary front.

With art, theater, food, music and books all contributing to the exciting cultural scene in the country, we must all try to get exposed to the vibe from time to time.

The infectious feelings of pride and national unity that all Greeks had during the closing ceremonies inspired me to give my thumbs-up for the Philippines. So I wore my Adidas jacket with "Philippines" emblazoned on its back and told everyone I met in Greece to visit our beautiful country.

Why wait for the future generation to make changes? We should all pitch in to help make the Philippines—in all aspects—a much better place.

E-mail me at seaprincess@inquirer.com.ph.

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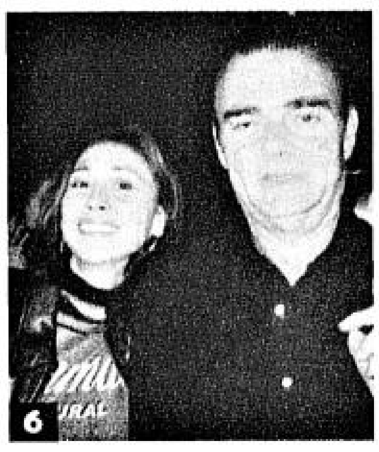
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1. DIVA Ana Fegi with nice lady Elisa Isaac; 2. "Baby" talents—choreographer Andy Alvis and vocal coach Manman Angsico with diva Bituin Escalante; 3. Pretty and talented Agot Isidro Sandejas with sister Olive; 4. Ex-Rep performers Michael Williams and Menchu Lauchengco-Yulo; 5. Proud mom Ligaya Salonga with talented son Gerard; 6. Great actress Cherie Gil with husband Ronnie Rogoff; 7. Funny "Baby" talent Jett Pangan with son Raffa

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Raffle prizes - Two (2) winners of P25,000 worth of clothes and apparel from Penshoppe

- A participant can win only once.
- Raffle draw will be held at NESTLÉ office, 31 Plaza Drive Rockwell Center, Makati on October 22, 2004, 2 pm, in the presence of a BFAD representative.
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- NESTLÉ shall shoulder the 20% tax for prizes exceeding P10,000.00.
- Promo will run from September 1 to 30, 2004.
- Last day of dropping your entries will be on September 30, 2004.

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   - To win the prize, the illustration on the 2 cards should match perfectly (i.e., t-shirt and pants).
   - Lucky participant will be asked to draw from the fish bowl the corresponding premium item/discount card to be won.

Hurry to the nearest participating supermarket or grocery NOW!

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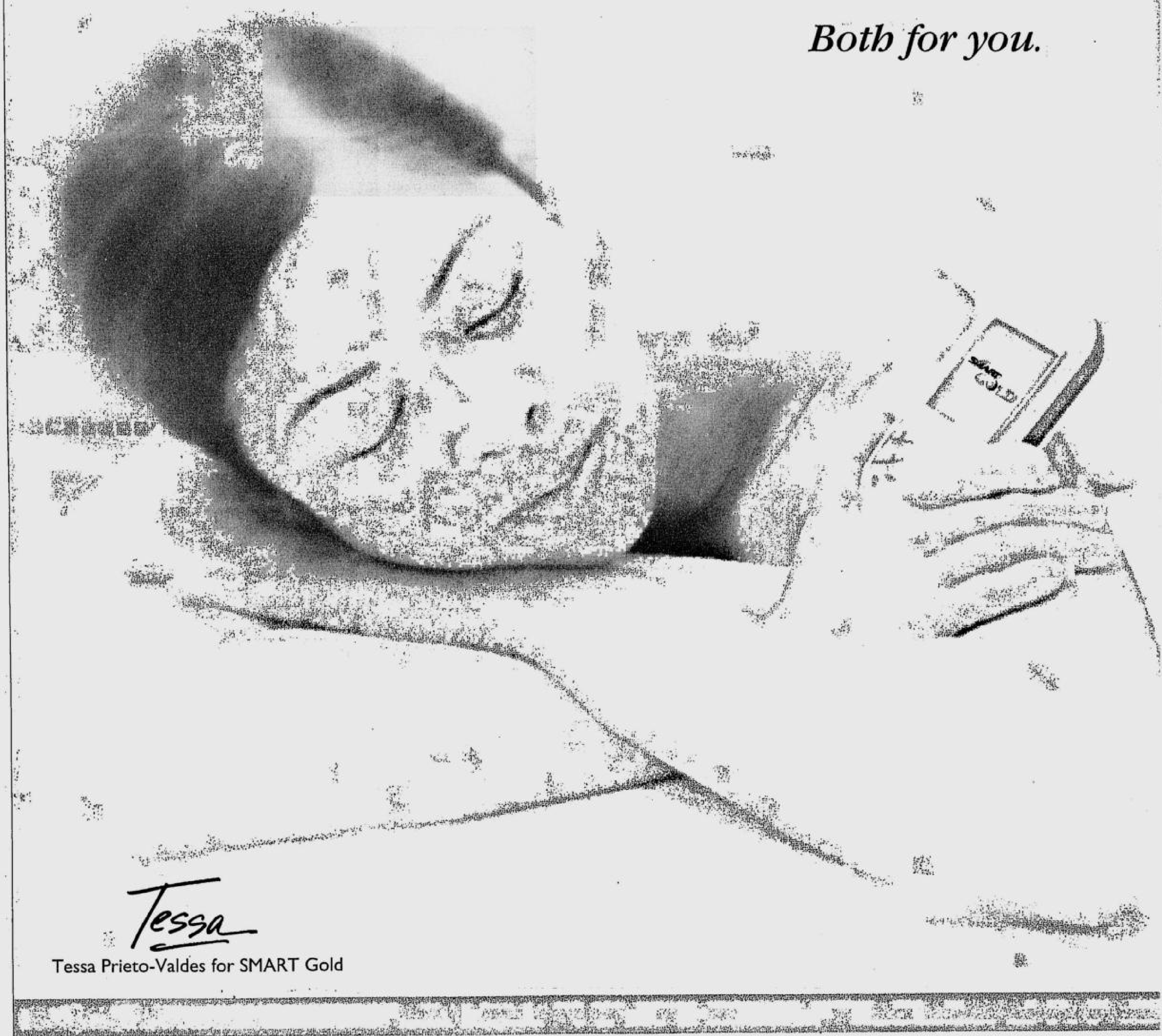

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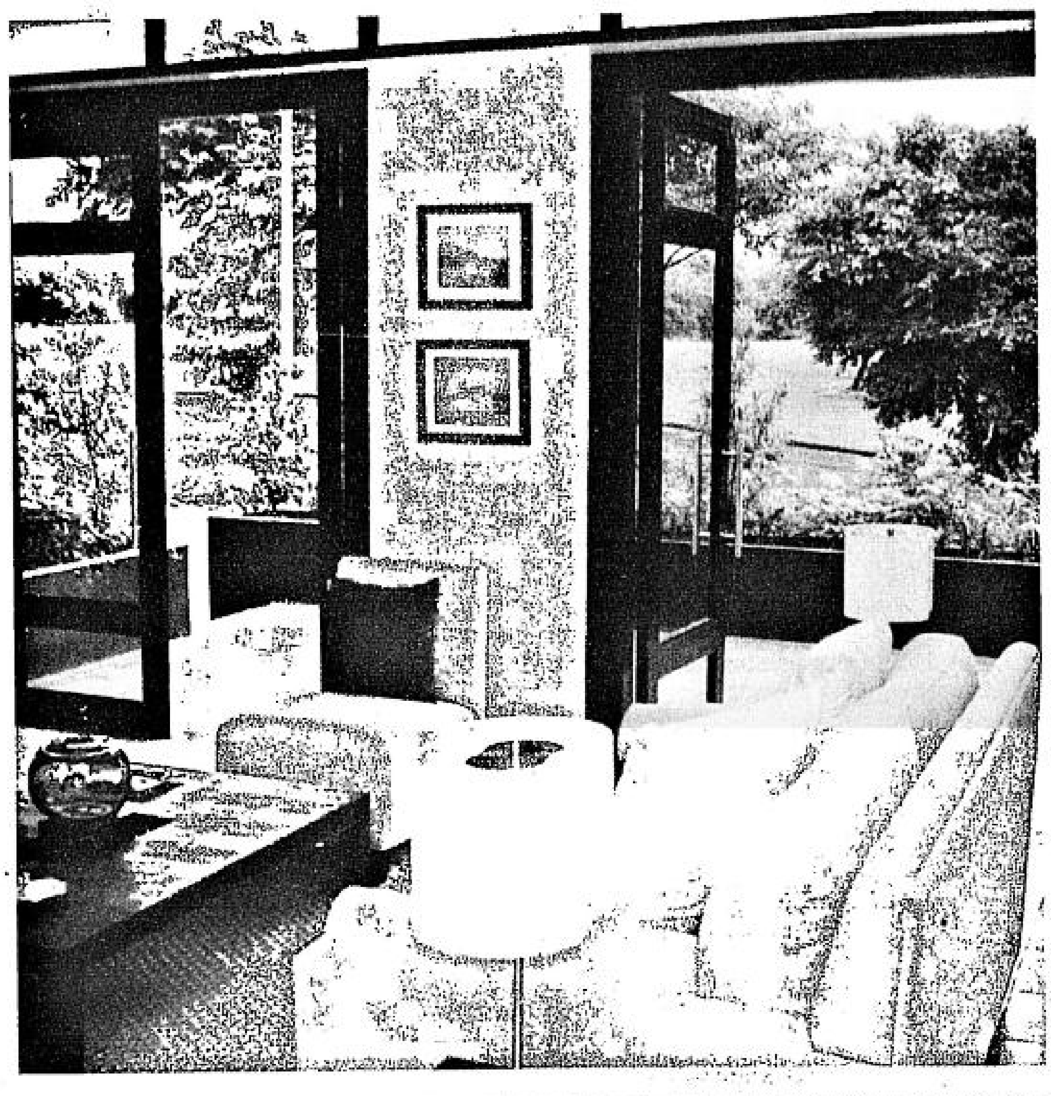


GLASS doors that open out into the golf course

Home on the range

Sta. Elena Properties takes luxury living a step higher by building a cozy community nestled in the fringes of a 27-hole golf course

STORY ON PAGE F3

DON'T BE SHOCKED, BUT THE WATER YOU DRINK CAN PUT YOUR BABY AT RISK.

This might come as shocking news, but the bottled water you're using may not be safe enough for your baby. The World Health Organization (WHO) recommends that bottled water be boiled to ensure sterility before using it for babies. Only bottled water that is certified as sterile, is recommended for direct use by infants.

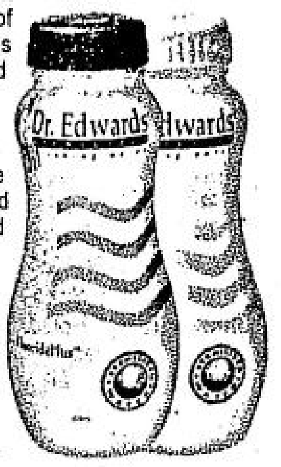
In its statement made in October 2000, the WHO stressed, "Some micro-organisms, which are normally of little or no public health significance, may grow to higher levels in bottled waters. This growth appears to occur less frequently in gasified water and in water bottled in glass containers compared to still water and water bottled in plastic containers. However, the public health significance of this remains little understood especially for vulnerable individuals, such as infants and children, pregnant women, immunocompromised individuals and the elderly. **In regard to infants, as bottled water is not sterile, it should be disinfected – for example by boiling for one minute prior to its use in the preparation of infant formula."**

The same concern is echoed by the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (USFDA). Dr. Madeline Sigman-Grant, Ph.D., R.D., of the University of Nevada Cooperative Extension and the AAP advise that babies should be given only sterilized water, be it for their formula, juice or cereal. The USFDA also recommends that consumers boil all non-sterile bottled water for one minute before mixing it with infant formula.

Yes, you may say that different people have different needs. Adults may find mineral water fit for their active lifestyle. Ordinary bottled distilled water may do for most people. But for individuals whose immunity system is underdeveloped or in weak condition, water needs to be sterilized. One way to ensure that your baby receives safe water is to boil the water, bottles and nipples before feeding. Another safe and more convenient way is to use commercially available sterilized bottled water.

A new product on the market fits this bill perfectly. **Dr. Edwards™ Sterilized Drinking Water** is specifically designed for people with higher safety needs in drinking water quality. Each bottle of Dr. Edwards™ undergoes medical-grade (autoclave) sterilization to ensure 100% sterile water free from all forms of water-borne disease and contamination. And Moms, the great thing about Dr. Edwards™ is that it's ready to use, you can kiss goodbye those days of boiling water and scrubbing and sterilizing bottles. Dr. Edwards™ is a quality product of Advanced Nutritional Technologies (ANTECH), and manufactured exclusively by Euro-Med Laboratories, the country's leading manufacturer of sterile intravenous (IV) solutions. So rest assured, you're in safe hands with Dr. Edwards™, and it's now available at Mercury Drug and leading supermarkets and drugstores.

Now that sterilization is out of the medical jargon, every Filipino mother (and everyone else for that matter) can readily enjoy the benefits of truly safe water as only Dr. Edwards™ Sterilized Drinking Water can offer.



Happy Grandparents' Day on Sept. 12

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Long Life Turtle symbolizes wealth, strength, long life & endurance. The shell of the Turtle is said to have the markings of heaven and earth upon it. Blessing bestowed would remain as long as you have this Turtle. Display this turtle in your home or business office with its rear facing the door.

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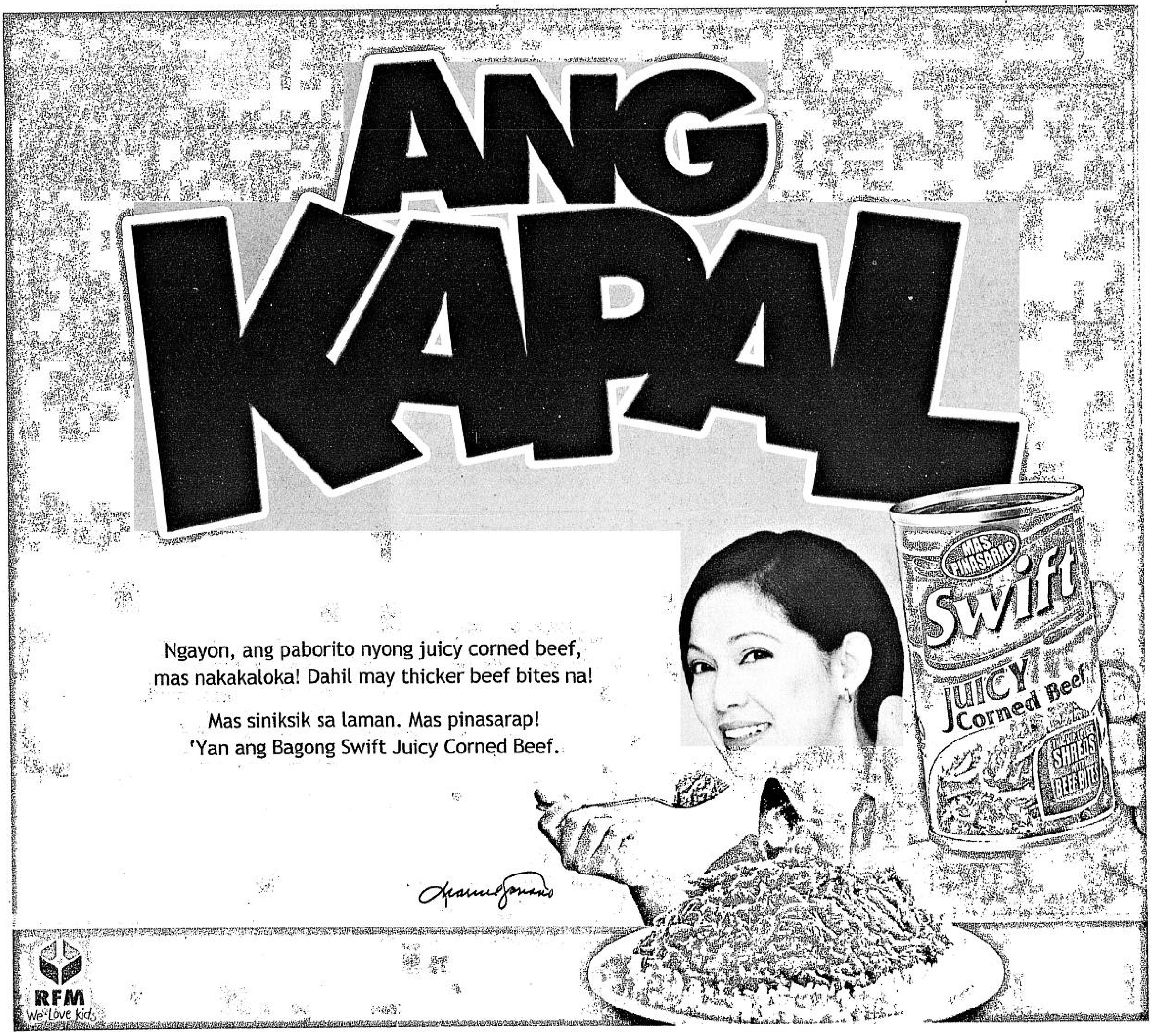


Ngayon, ang paborito nyong juicy corned beef, mas nakakaloka! Dahil may thicker beef bites na!

Mas siniksik sa laman. Mas pinasarap!
'Yan ang Bagong Swift Juicy Corned Beef.

Lessons from a Bicolana environmentalist

SEEING GREEN

Doris Gaskell Nuyda

SOME time ago, I received a letter from Portia Nayve Rossi, with whom I had lost contact for several years. A multi-awarded environmentalist, Rossi manages the Institute of Sustainable Rural Development Foundation, the Isarog Farms where she practices what she preaches, and the community-owned cooperative, Prosamapi, all in Pili, Camarines Sur.

The projects were set up with her late husband Basil. The coop was organized to develop 2,000 hectares of agricultural and industrial land for the benefit of farmers and the community.

She continues the projects and programs and lectures on environmental management, her expertise. With five masteral degrees and a doctorate, she teaches at the institute and lectures in other colleges and universities, usually on ecological agriculture, pollution control, agro-forestry and environmental health.

The farm continues to be visited by students, researchers and fellow farmers who consider it a model.

Environmental pointers

I asked her for some of the environmental pointers she gave her students. Calling them "10 Ecological Perceptions," they were based on the writings of a favorite author, Thomas Berry, considered head of the Deep Ecology Movement of America.

A person who wants to know if he/she will survive through the 21st century, Rossi says, should draw the answers from those perceptions. She stresses the importance of seeing "the world as an integrated whole rather than a dissociated collection of parts." She says ecology is more encompassing and more comprehensive than most sciences. So, no matter where we think ecology originated—Earth, the solar system, the milky way, the galaxy, the universe—it cannot be denied that it revolves around a center from where all our spiritual energy and life force come.

Based on this and other writings, it seems the spiritual aspect of nature has not been obscured in some people's minds. It becomes clear that unless we acknowledge that a Supreme Creator is responsible for the existence of everything, we will never understand such simple things as why we should not cut trees in careless abandon, or kill animals for the sake of killing or the thrill of it, why mountains and forests must be kept as pristine as possible, and why careful study and consultation should be done before they are touched, regardless of what our economic leaders say.

Rossi also says medical analogy should be used when looking at the earth. She gives some examples from James Lovelock's Gaia Theory, which states that Earth (Gaia) is alive but is very sick. "She has high fever due to the burning of fossil fuels, which cause greenhouse and global warming. Her blood in the circulatory system is polluted with toxic chemicals. The streams, rivers and creeks, which are her arteries and veins, are clogged with plastics. Her skeletal system is fractured due to overmining of minerals, which is the tracking system of the earth, so now she is wobbling.

"Her respiratory system is malfunctioning. She has emphysema because we have plundered the lungs of the earth by illegal logging. She also has cirrhosis of the liver because her filtering systems—the mangroves—are turned into fishponds to feed an exploding human population. Her skin, the topsoil of the earth (which is also the base of our civilization), is being eroded by millions of tons each year. Mother Earth cannot even replenish herself because we are killing the decomposers (bacteria and other microorganisms) with pesticides."

Desensitizing earth

Some people have not even seen an earthworm, which digests organic wastes and turns these into topsoil. The earth is sentient through animals, but we are desensitizing her, not only by killing the animals, but also by controlling and manipulating them through genetic coding.

Rossi's pointers show us that every creature is part of the earth system and has a corresponding function. So what is the function of humans? Did God really put us in charge to multiply and subdue the earth and have dominion over all creation? What humans have done in the last two thousand years should give us the answer.

Rossi reminds us that we have been following western civilization—to the point of forgetting our own—even if it has not defined or even developed programs to contribute to the success of this planet's life systems. There has not been an awareness of people's responsibilities on earth until the 1990s. The culture has been unable to include any but the human in the pursuit of well-being.

Rossi says there must be change, and the economic system is a good place to start because it is based on production and consumption, which are getting to be more than earth can handle and are causing its illness. In its state of extreme distress, it is doubtful that it can recover, unless humans find a new way to relate to the rest of creation. Rossi answers the question of the humans' role on this earth by quoting Berry: "It is in man that the earth thinks, reasons, decides, chooses. Therefore, the fate of the earth is in his—our—hands. Do we want to survive, commit suicide and go into extinction? Do we go on with our plundering ways? Or do we heal this sick planet?"

While we think of the answers, Rossi asks us to stop and reflect: Is the human species really worth saving?

E-mail the author at dorisnuyda@yahoo.com.

VP De Castro opens garden show in QC

VICE President Noli de Castro formally opened the ongoing mid-year Orchid and Garden Show of the Philippine Orchid Society (POS) at the sunken garden fronting the Quezon City Hall.

He was assisted by his wife, Arlene de Castro, Quezon City Mayor Sonny Belmonte and POS officers: president Rex Victor Puentespina, Willy Ortaliz, Vicky Lucanson, director Doy Salacop, Remy Rodis Santilices, Rolita Spowart and Zaldy de la Rosa.

On opening day of the exhibit, which ends tomorrow, the Cattleya Tainan City General, owned by Andres Golamco, Jr., was named Best-in-Show Orchid.

Other winners were Golamco's Den. Bullenianum "Golden Harvest", Best Dendrobium; Cora Purificacion's Brsdm Lilian Oca "Hawaii" (Best Oncidium), Liparis condylobulbon (Best Cultured Plant) and Tricho. Brachiata (Best of Other Genera); Arsenio Sy's Paph. New Era X Paph., masterianum, Best Paphiopedilum; Cynthia M. Isidro's Phal. Mild No. 1, Best Phalaenopsis; Minda Garcia's Ren. Aazimah, Best Vandaceous Alliance and Best Monopodial Orchid; Mable Chua's Ren. Philippinensis, Best Philippine Species; and Puentespina's Paraphalaenopsis Laycockii as Best Foreign Species.

Purificacion won first place in the booth category. The group of Spowart, Golamco, Michael Espeso, Sy, Dennis Sy, Chola Bernardo and Lino Aromin was second; while Ma. Cynthia M. Isidro of Mega Orchids was third.

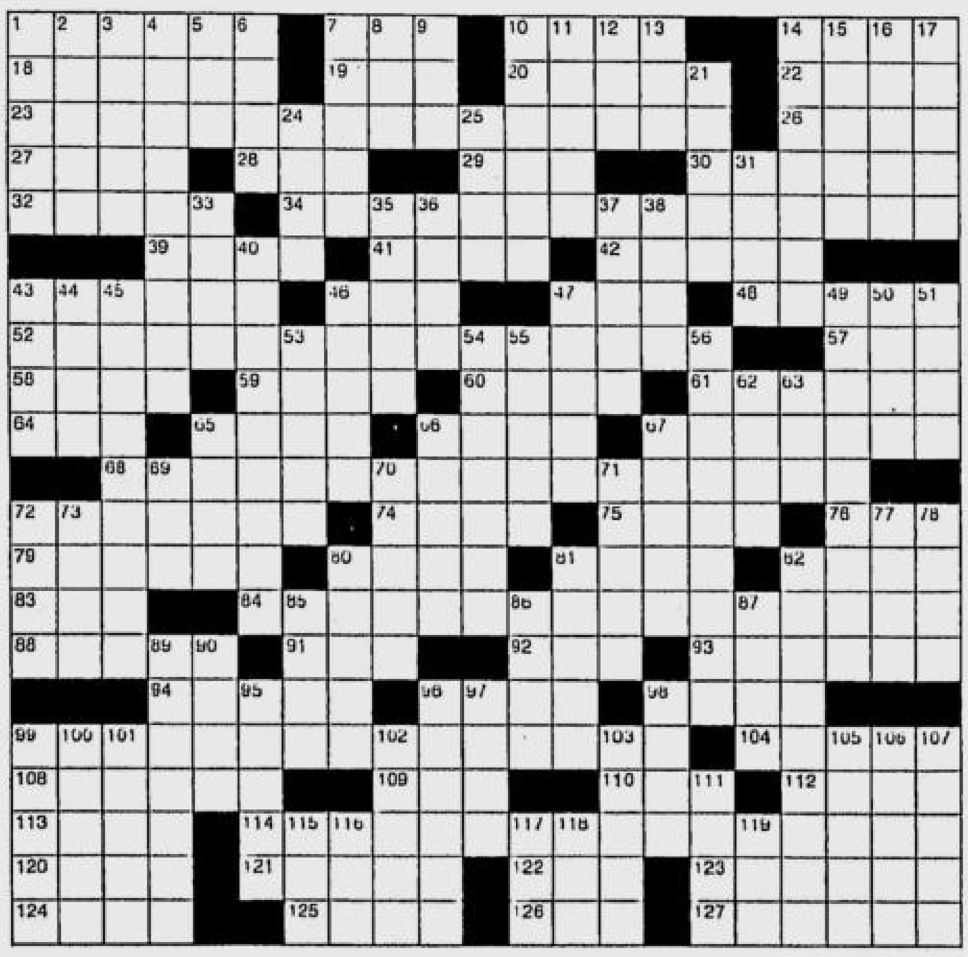
VICE PRESIDENT Noli de Castro formally opens the mid-year show of the Philippine Orchid Society, which ends tomorrow, Sept.6.

SUNDAY CROSSWORD

PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Frank A. Longo NEED A LIFT?

ACROSS
1 Knights' cover-ups
7 Tumbler's surface
10 Castle encircler
14 Reside
18 Sweetie pie
19 Prefix with skeleton
20 Start
22 Declare positively
23 Start of a riddle
26 Yemen's capital
27 Capri, e.g.
28 Passe
29 Earth: Pref.
30 Clavichord cousins
32 Broadway blinkers
34 Riddle, part 2
39 Lacking slack
41 Pub brews
42 Enticed
43 Ellington's express
46 — -fi
47 "Golly!"
48 Tariff-eliminating pact since 1/1/94
52 Riddle, part 3
57 Goal
58 Dog bane
59 DoubleStuf cookie
60 They're found in pods
61 Twin of Artemis
64 Seattle-to-Tucson dir.
65 Ever and —
66 Shut hard
67 Thief
68 Riddle, part 4
72 Enunciated more clearly
74 See 98 Down
75 WWII battle site in France
76 "Alice" waitress
79 "Monty Python" regular John
80 Rhine feeder
81 Ruckus
82 Ovid's 1,054
83 — Lingus
84 Riddle, part 5
88 Tabulae — (blank slates)
91 Holy Mile.
92 Snack on
93 Bee attractant
94 Prickly bush
96 Huck Finn's polite assent
98 Taj Mahal site
99 Riddle, part 6
104 '83 Keaton-Garr comedy
108 Reeling feeling
109 Select, with "for"
110 SASE, say
112 Sticky stuff
113 Jose's emphatic assent
114 Riddle's answer
120 Airing, in a way
121 Davis of "I'm Not Rappaport"
122 Historical unit
123 Fusses with feathers
124 NASDAQ relative
125 Window section
126 Spill catcher
127 French president's residence

DOWN
1 Introduce to the mix
2 Employ anew
3 Actress Thomas
4 Set straight
5 — Tin Tin
6 State flower of Utah
7 Conductor Zubin —
8 Good feller?
9 Swift or Kite
10 Get one's — worth
11 In the lead
12 Eruption fallout
13 Rolodex abbr.
14 Layered pasta dish
15 An ex-Trump
16 Poison
17 Clear the board
21 Used a keypad
24 Grass clump
25 Eye amorously
31 Golf club
33 Uttered
35 Like he-men
36 Nastase of tennis
37 Bread spreads
38 Sharp
40 Teamster's fees, e.g.
43 Cobblers' tools
44 "— end up"
45 Indy 500 attendees, e.g.
46 Surgical tube
47 Texas senator Phil
49 Is a total flop
50 Scrabble piece
51 Love deity
53 Sag
54 Film editor, at times
55 Razz
56 Coming together
62 Hammer's striking end
63 Boat propeller
65 Votes in favor
66 English county
67 Soil
69 Hula instrument
70 Spout off
71 Four pairs
72 Surgery souvenir
73 Entreaty
77 Peru's capital
78 Finished
80 Chevy minivan
81 SeaWorld show-off
82 Beatles' bassist
85 "The time — hand"
86 Left, on a map
87 Contract condition
89 Harshly insulting, as language
90 Bald eagle relative
95 Potato place
96 "Hooray!"
97 Italy's Villa d' —
98 With 74 Across, Vampire Lestat's creator
99 Potsie portrayer Williams
100 Drizzling
101 Forces out
102 Welcome words to a hitchhiker
103 Place to get clean
105 Spouses
106 Vent views
107 Reagan cabineteer Edwin
111 Zorro's garment
115 Seer's gift
116 Neighbor of Mex.
117 New society girl
118 Quadri-less one
119 High-tech address



answer on page D3

Here comes computer-aided sewing

SINGER, the most trusted brand in sewing machines, offers a great new way to enjoy sewing.

The Singer XL Computer Machine is a state-of-the-art sewing technology that allows novices and seasoned enthusiasts to their sewing conveniently using an IBM PC/AT computer, in tandem with the Professional Sew-Ware (PSW 2.00) and a Touch Control Screen (Built-in Sewing Consultant).

It comes in XL-1000 and XL-5000 models, with over 600 built-in designs, alongside unique features such as Automatic Thread Exchanger and Endless Bobbin. With the Singer XL Computer Machine, sewing is done by following a few simple instructions.

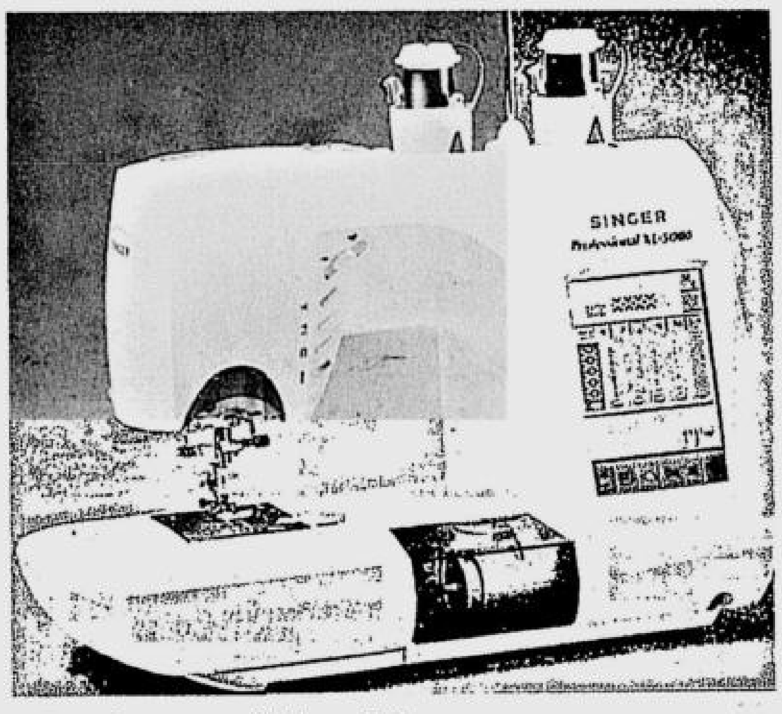
The Singer Computer Machine also offers a wide variety of patterns and hoops, 600 built-in stitch programs, including a patented quilting stitch, as well as an embroidery software.

To mark its latest sewing innovation, Singer is holding a countrywide contest called "Stitching On Canvas," from July-Sept. 30. The competition is open to all owners of Singer zigzag machines who want to showcase their sewing skills. An entry must be in a finished size of 18 x 24 with a cloth size of 20 x 26.

Contestants must accomplish an official entry form and identify the model and serial number of the Singer zigzag machine used for the entry.

Entry forms are available at all Singer area sales offices. Submission of entries must be no later than 5:30 p.m. of Sept. 30.

Call the Singer Customer Hotline 1-800-100-Singer for provincial areas and 5279958 for Metro Manila.



SINGER XL Computer Machine

THE 3RD WALING

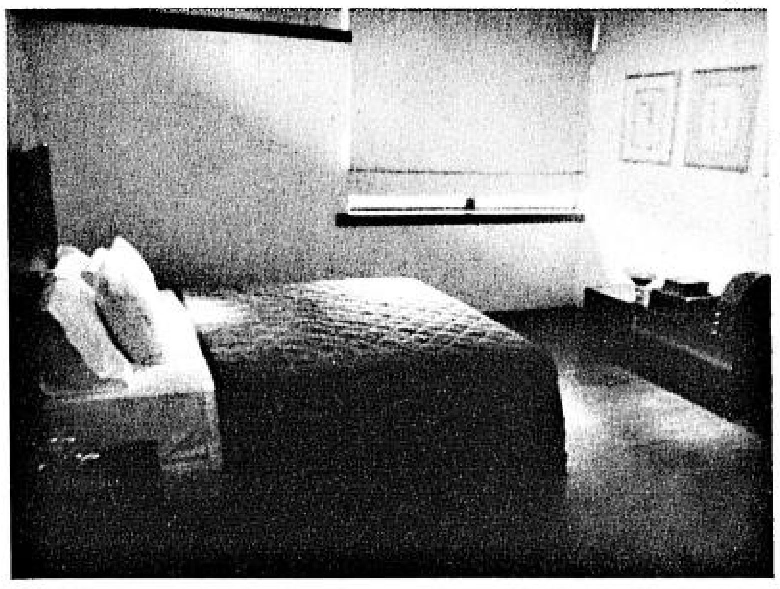
WALING CUP WINNER

WILLY Tongco of Batangas won first prize in the 3rd Waling Cup, an invitational flower arranging competition held at the Apo View Hotel in Davao City, held in conjunction with the recent Kadayawan sa Davao festival. The Waling Cup is organized annually by Puentespina Orchids and Tropical Plants Inc.

Tongco, who bested 12 other participants from all over the country, is shown with members of the board of judges and the Puentespina family: Angel Puentespina, Lynie Denila of Iloilo, Peter Daeman of Holland, Rodel Vista of Manila (2nd prize), Randy Corteza of South Cotabato (3rd prize), Ponchit Ponce Enrile of Bacolod, Charita Puentespina and Rex Victor Puentespina.

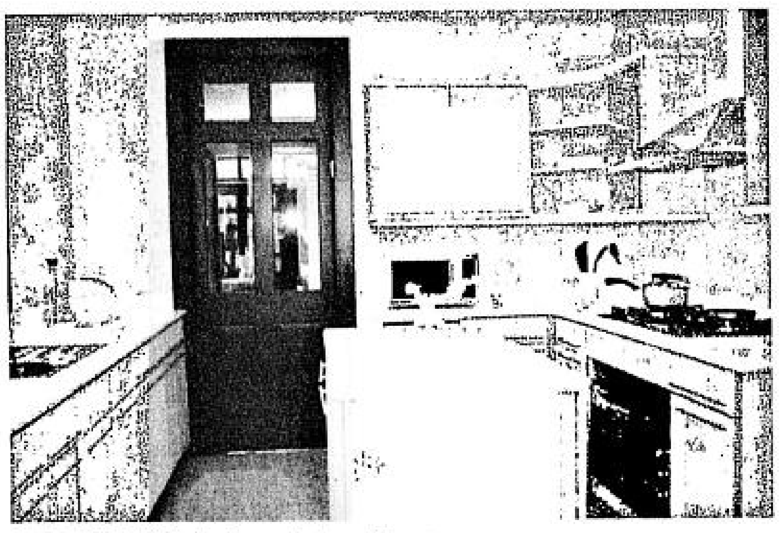
SPACIOUS living room

DINING area can easily fit six-seater table.



MASTER bedroom

Home on the range



KITCHEN with sleek, modular cabinets

COMMON area on the second floor

Text by Alex Y. Vergara
Photos by Jim Guiao Punzalan

BUILDING a home in Sta. Elena Golf and Residential Community is like owning a piece of one of Asia's top golf courses. The developers behind the project, a 260-ha property in Sta. Rosa, Laguna, about 40 minutes south of Metro Manila, never fail to stress this point to potential buyers.

They're probably not exaggerating. Apart from offering urbanites an escape from the city's din and pollution, the development has been cited by the Asian Golf Monthly as the country's best golf course for two years in a row, and second best in Asia next to Thailand's Nirwana.

And the best part is, you don't have to be an avid golfer or own shares to build a home in its two adjacent villages—Sta. Elena Village Banahaw and Sta. Elena Village Sierra Madre. After firmly securing its reputation among golfers, Sta. Elena Properties has moved to the next level and is slowly turning the weekend destination into a viable community nestled in the fringes of its 27-hole golf course.

"We want the place to thrive with life," says Gippy Tantoco, the project's VP for business development and marketing, "so pockets of villages were designed to surround the golf course."

What he probably means is promote biodiversity. As a sanctuary for resident and migratory birds—100 species as of last count, and countless species of plants—Sta. Elena is already teeming with life. It has been cited by Audubon for its efforts to preserve the environment.

Since Banahaw is already fairly developed, Tantoco and company have trained their energies in promoting Sierra Madre. For those who don't want to go through the hassles of constructing a house, Sta. Elena is offering house-and-lot packages starting at P9 million.

No headaches

A typical two-story, three-bedroom house designed by architect Dan Lichauco has a total floor area of 185 sq m and sits on a 340 sq m lot. A bigger, pricier option at P11 million has a total floor area of 240 sq m and also comes with three bedrooms, family room and den, which can be turned into a fourth bedroom or an extension of the living room.

"Building a house from the ground up can be fun," says Tantoco. "But some people want to do away with the usual headaches that come with construction. These ready-made houses are designed for them."

In fact, somebody already bought Sierra Madre's model unit (the house featured in the photo shoot) even before the cemented roads that would crisscross the future village had been laid out. Tantoco estimates that close to 30 percent of their clients will avail themselves of a house-and-lot package.

Of course, buyers can forego pre-designed houses and settle for a lot at P3 million. They can build their dream houses with relative freedom, as Sta. Elena, unlike some exclusive villages, doesn't have too many restrictions when it comes to a prescribed theme.

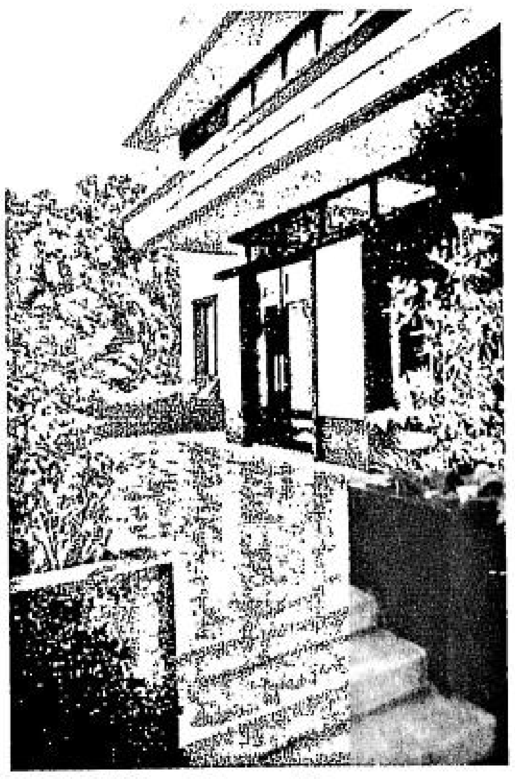
Houses with earthy colors and Asian touches—a Balinese theme, for instance, is favored in Banahaw to mirror the look of its clubhouse—are encouraged. This, however, hasn't stopped a homeowner from building his idea of an American home sans picket fences.

Homeowners, however, are required to observe the four-meter easement rule. In other words, they should allot a four-meter buffer between their houses' "buildable" areas and the surrounding perimeter walls—or in Sierra Madre's case, green, eco-friendly hedges. Thus, future houses in effect will be eight meters apart.

Breathing space

Aside from giving houses more breathing space, says Tantoco, their occupants will have more room to savor the view. After all, the property's pristine surroundings are still its primary come-ons.

ONE of upstairs bathrooms



TERRACE for outdoor parties

"We encourage them to plant trees between their properties," he adds. "They definitely look a lot friendlier than perimeter walls."

This philosophy is reflected in the way houses in Sierra Madre are arranged. The model unit, for instance, faces the main road and has a good view of the golf course. Unlike most houses, its garage and service area are positioned in the back, where they face a narrower secondary road. No cars will be allowed to park on the main road.

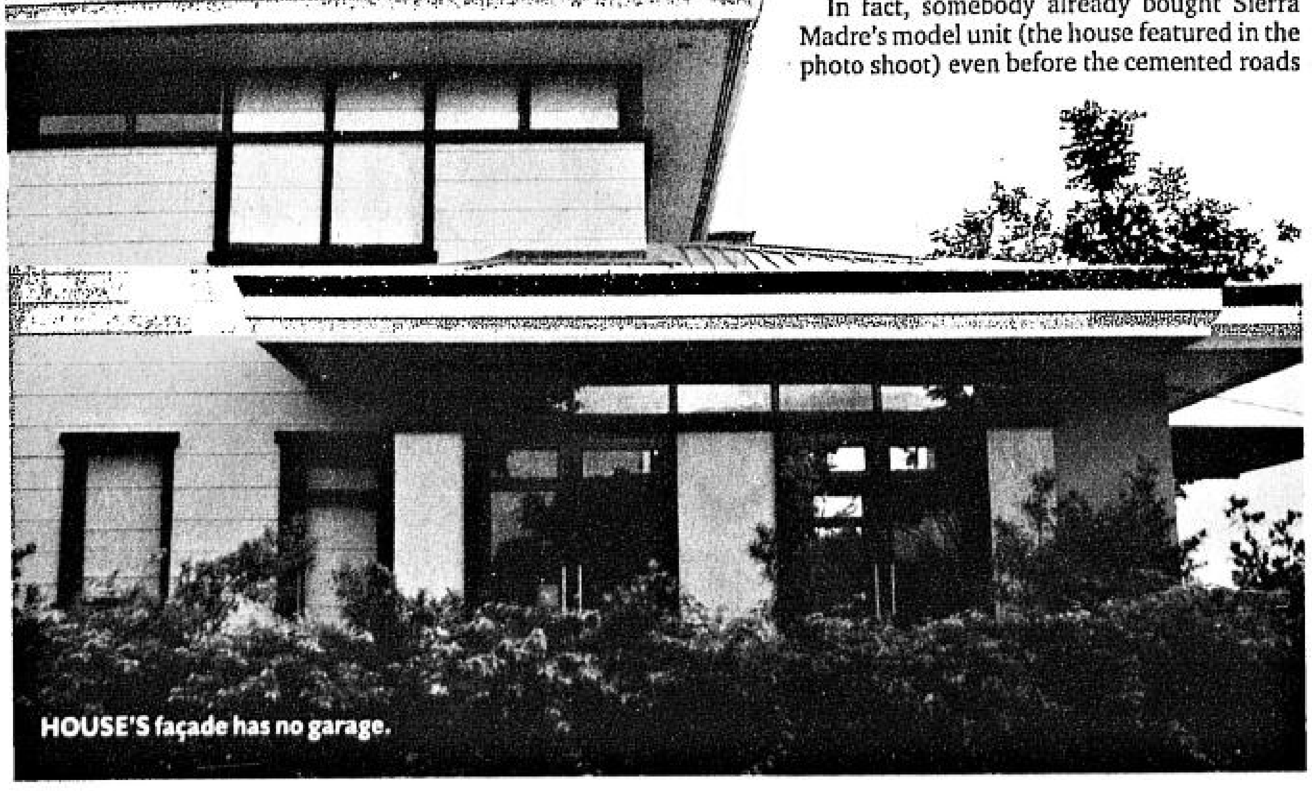
"This is beneficial to both occupants and joggers," says Tantoco. "Homeowners will have an unimpeded view of the golf course, while joggers will no longer have to stop every so often as they jog to avoid or negotiate their way around parked cars."

Necessary but sometimes unsightly chores such as garbage collection are confined to secondary roads. Glass doors on the front and left side of the house double as French windows. The main entrance is actually a pair of wooden double doors also located on the house's left side.

A concrete and elevated terrace, which can later be extended to become part of the house, is ideal for outdoor parties. And since this is a gated community, homeowners can sleep soundly despite the prevalence of glass doors and windows.

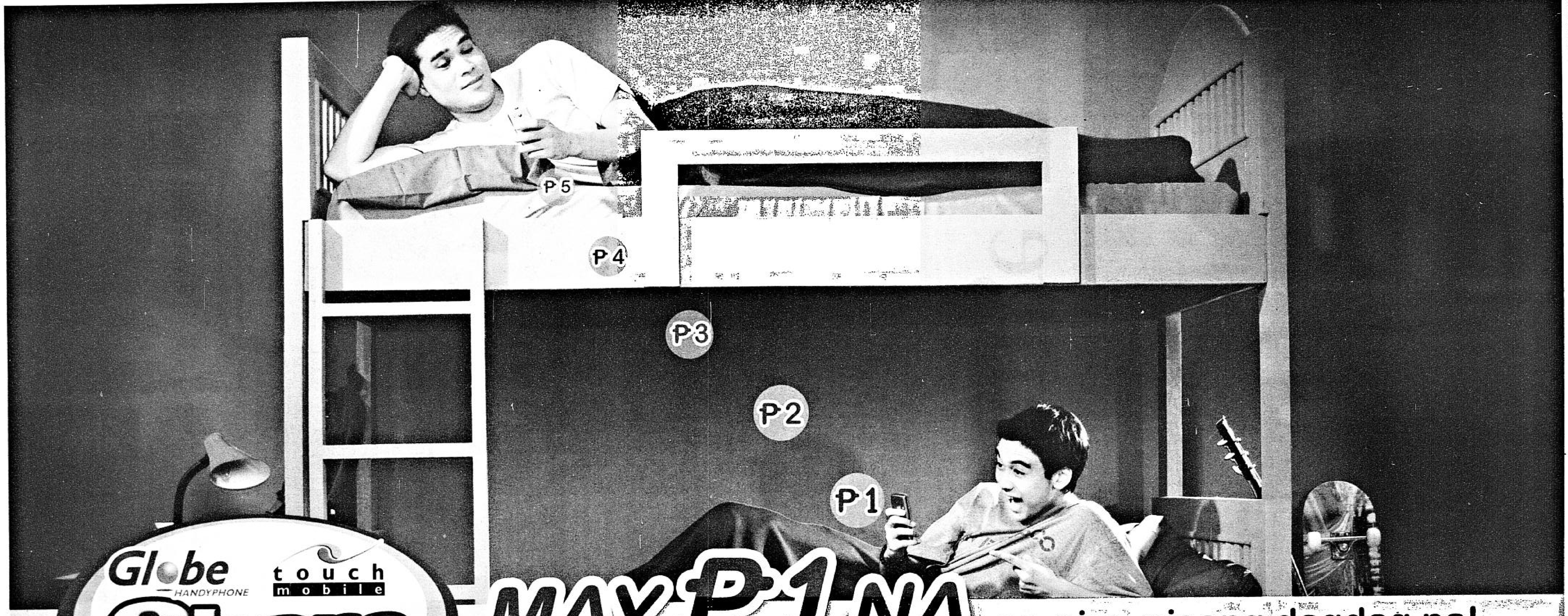
The only thing they have to fear, perhaps, is an occasional stray golf ball or two. But this scenario seems farfetched as well, as those who frequent Sta. Elena's putting green are mostly seasoned players.

E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph



HOUSE'S façade has no garage.

ADDITIONAL area for future extension



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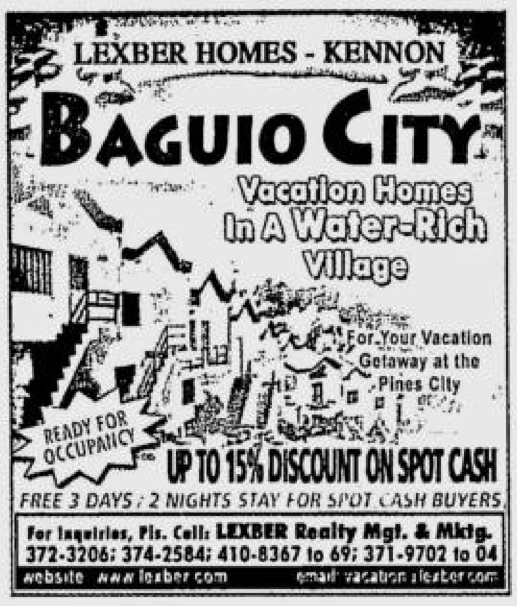
SCOTTISH-BORN Australian chef Ian McKenzie joins PAL for the "challenge."

Up, up and away for Pinoy fare

STORY ON PAGE G3



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Diabetes Myths Debunked

Part 3

Myth 7. Unlimited amounts of fruits are good for people with diabetes.
False! Although fruits have been known to be a good source of fiber, they are a very good source of sugar (fructose) as well. That is why unlimited consumption of fruits may aggravate sugar control in people with diabetes.

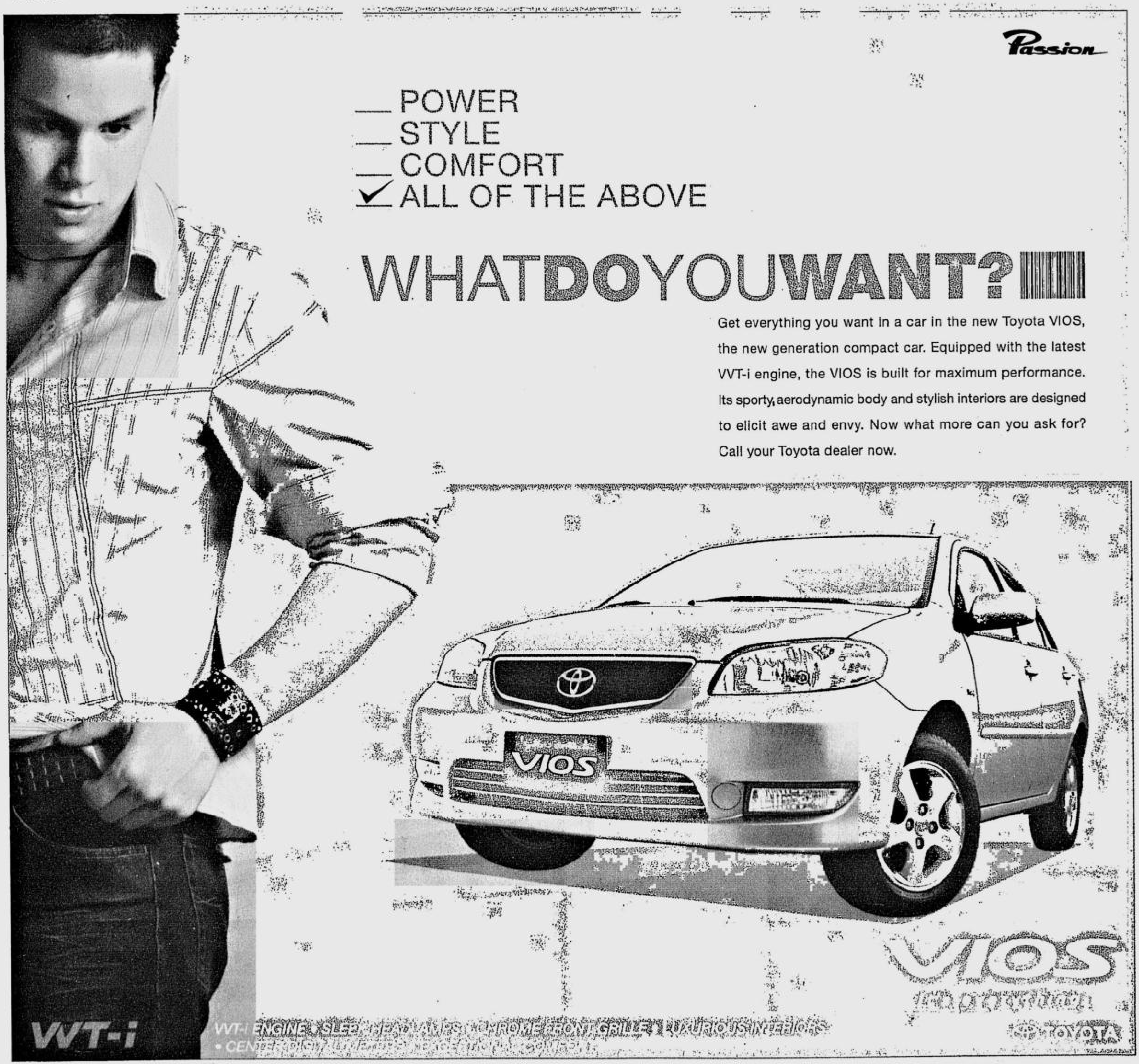
Myth 8. Insulin is habit-forming
False! Insulin remains to be one of the most effective medications that can be given to patients with diabetes. In fact, it is so effective that many people feel its effect immediately. It is not surprising that these individuals would experience a good sense of well-being — a state that they have been missing for so long because of uncontrolled blood sugar levels. This phenomenon is what is sometimes misconstrued as "habit-forming".

Fight Diabetes!

Myth 9. There is no need to do exercise and diet as long as one takes his medication/s to lower blood sugar.
False! Diabetes is a disease because of problems in the body's metabolism. Before the onset of diabetes, proper diet and exercise can dramatically increase the likelihood of correcting these metabolic problems. Once diabetes has set in, proper diet and exercise are a must so that medications can work efficiently. The role of medications in the management of diabetes is generally supportive in nature.

We will appreciate your feedback or queries as we go along. Please call us at 824-8736, fax no. 824-1345, e-mail at service@lifescanphilippines.jnj.com or visit our website http://lifescanphilippines.com.

Diabetes Center Philippines, Philippine Diabetes Association,
Philippine Association of Endocrinology & Metabolism,
Institute for the Studies of Diabetes Foundation, and Johnson & Johnson Medical Philippines



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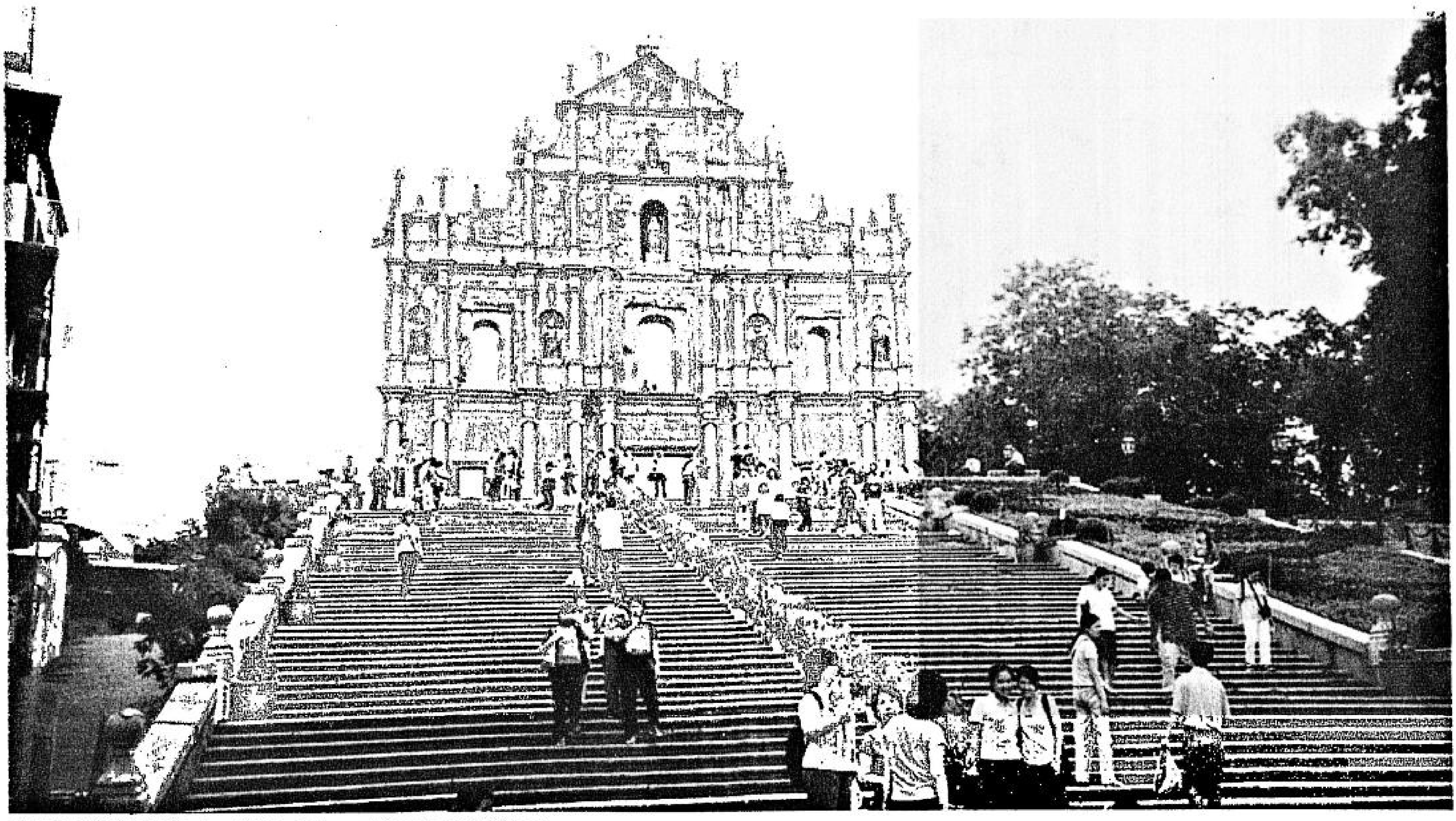
Macau is a city not just for gamblers but also for the religious and the culture vulture

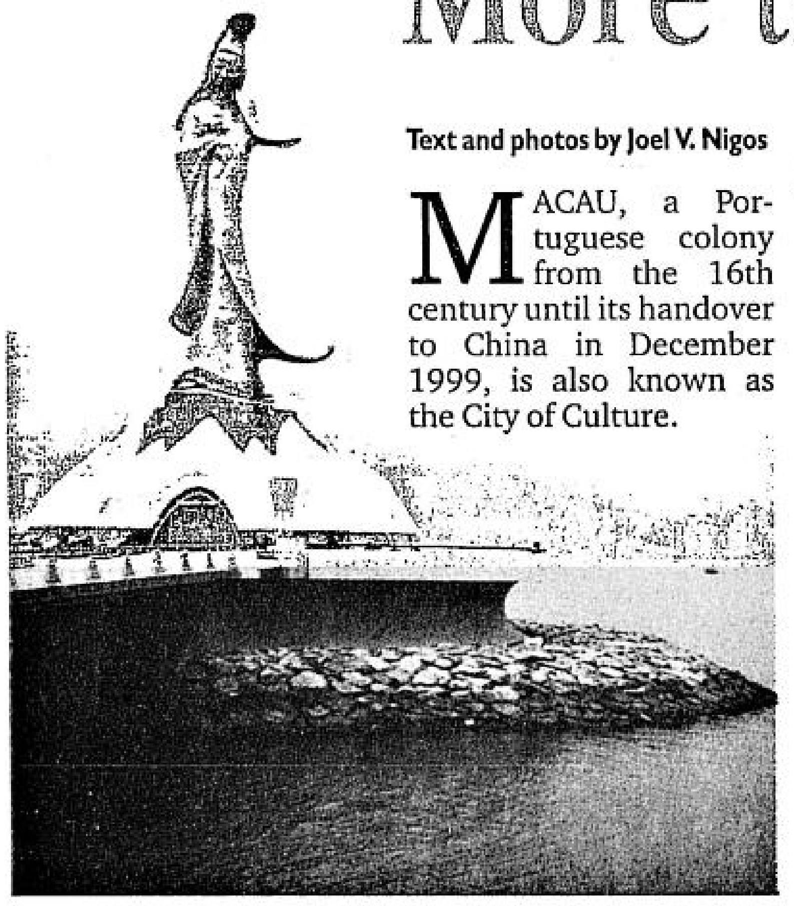


THE 17TH-CENTURY ruins of St. Paul, the most famous site in Macau

More than just a land of casinos

Text and photos by Joel V. Nigos

MACAU, a Portuguese colony from the 16th century until its handover to China in December 1999, is also known as the City of Culture.



AT THE OUTER Harbor is the Statue of Kun Iam, the Buddhist goddess of mercy. Standing 20 meters tall, it was designed by a Portuguese sculptor and is made of special bronze.

East meets West in this city, the Portuguese heritage blending well with traditional Chinese culture. Macau is more than just the land of Stanley Ho and the casinos. It is also a place of history, religion, food and shopping!

The city, only 23.8 sq km in total land area, attracts some 10 million visitors a year. But then, Macau boasts of many interesting places to see.

Macau has preserved her heritage well from the cobbled-stone sidewalks to the façade of old buildings with European-inspired architecture.

Old and new

New structures have been designed to blend well with the older edifices. Old and important government buildings, houses and Portuguese fortresses have been preserved by converting them into museums.

The Largo do Senado, with its Portuguese-styled mosaic stone pavement, is where Macau's mixmatch of cultures is most obvious. This is also the shopping center with bargains typical of Filipino *tiangge*, as well as designer shops.

The plaza has a spherical fountain in the middle. Patterned after a Portuguese square, it is surrounded by civic buildings.

Since the Portuguese occupied Macau, churches are among the city's major attractions. Some of the churches were built in the 16th century but have been well-preserved. Traditional Oriental features give a distinctive look to the predominantly European Baroque architecture.

Magnificent ruins

The 17th-century church of St. Paul, though reduced to ruins, still has its stone façade and the grand staircase to attest to its magnificence.

It now rises in four colonnaded tiers and is covered with carvings and statues that eloquently illustrate the early days of the Catholic church in Asia. The most famous site in Macau, thousands of visitors, Christians or otherwise, walk through the ruins every day.

The Chapel of Our Lady of Guia, built in the 17th century as part of the Guia Fort, is another imposing structure. The Chapel of Our Lady of Penha on Penha Hill is frequented by sailors embarking on hazardous voyages. The St. Joseph Church and Seminary, meanwhile, is not only a famous landmark, but is also a favorite subject of artists.

Oriental religions also have many interesting places of worship, like the A-Ma Temple, built in honor of the Taoist goddess of seafarers.

Macau residents favor leisurely meals. They take from an hour and a half to two hours to finish their food. But then, Macau's mix of Chinese, Portuguese and Macanese food makes one want to savor his meals at a leisurely pace.

Outlying islands

Macau also has two outlying islands—Taipa and Coloane. Taipa is famous for its row of five restored houses built in 1921. The typical Macanese houses have become the Taipa House-Museum.

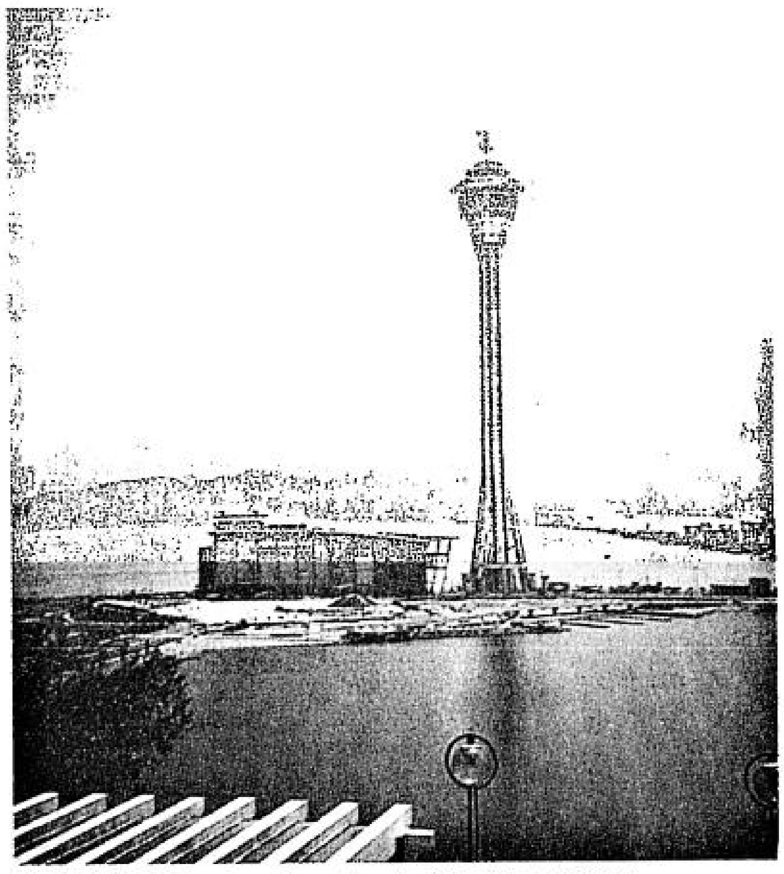
In Coloane is where the egg tart of Lord Stow's Bakery, now famous throughout Asia, originated. This is where the St. Francis Xavier Chapel can be found.

At the Outer Harbor is the statue of Kun Iam, the Buddhist goddess of mercy. Standing 20 meters tall, it was designed by a Portuguese sculptor and made of a special bronze. The figure rises from a lotus base which houses an ecumenical center and exhibitions on different Chinese faiths.

Latest attraction

Macau Tower is the latest attraction in the former Portuguese territory. Located on a spectacular site fronting Nam Van Lake and soaring 338 meters above the city, it is the 10th tallest free-standing tower in the world. It was inaugurated on the second anniversary of Macau's handover to China in December 2001 and was built at a cost of HK$1 billion.

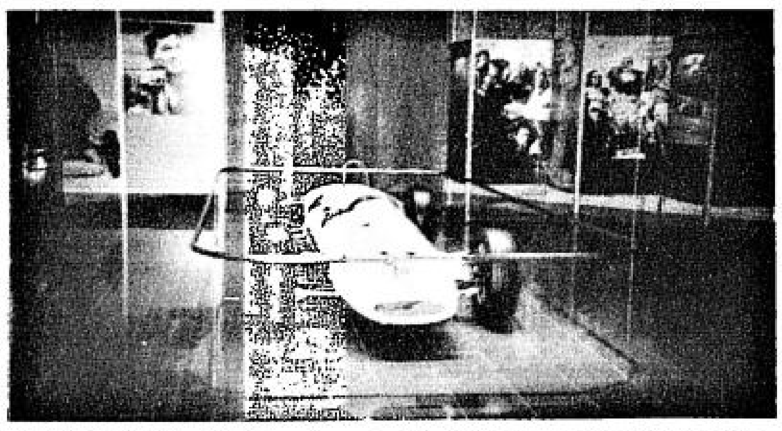
The Skywalk X, the tower's main outer rim, is 233 meters above ground and only 1.4 meters wide, with no handrail or glass wall. It offers a breathtaking panoramic view of the city.



SOARING 338 meters above the city is the Macau Tower.

Other interesting items a visitor can put on his Macau itinerary are the Grayhound Racing, the casinos such as the Casino Lisboa, China's border gates, the Museu de Macau and the Maritime Museum, tai chi 101 lessons at the Jardim de Lou Lim Ioc, the Red Market, and a trip down memory lane at the Wine and Grand Prix museums.

Or one can simply spend time watching the men carrying birds in cages walk by.

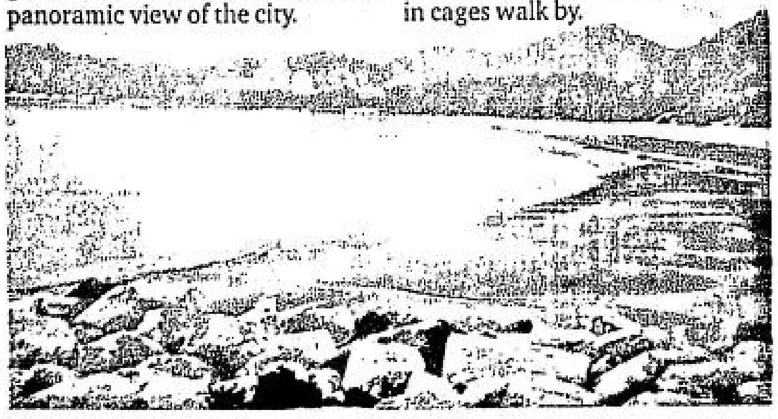


MEMORABILIA of Filipino Arsenio "Dodjie" Laurel, the only racer to win back-to-back in the Macau Grand Prix, in the museum for the car race

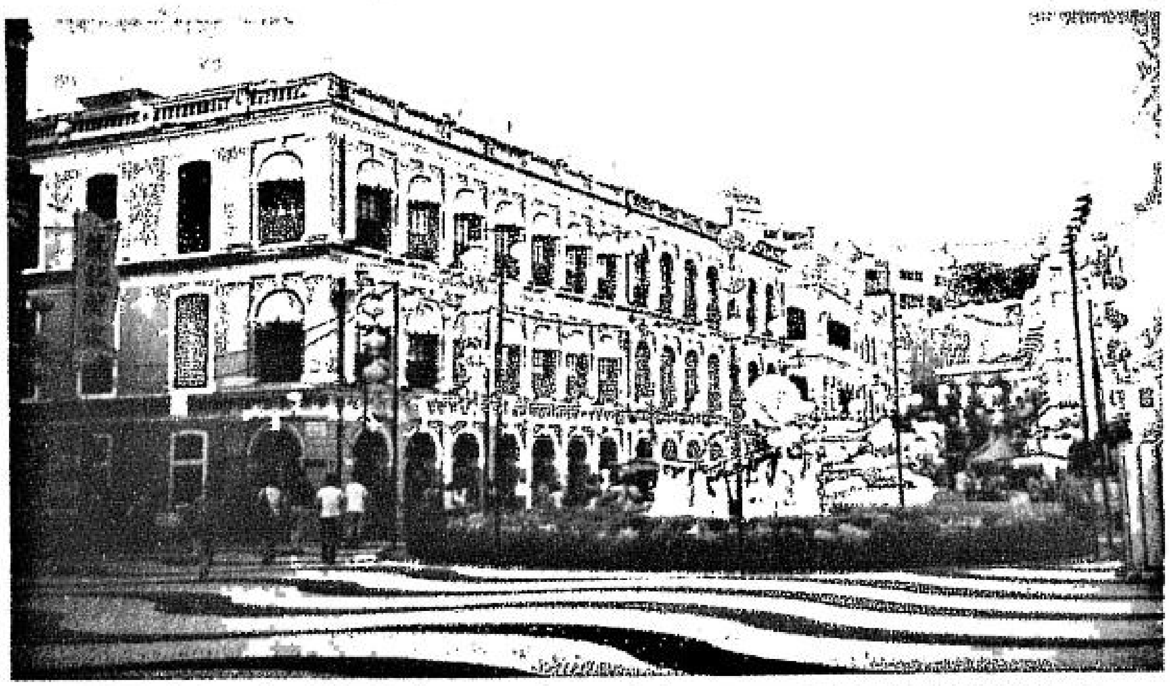
THE A-MA Temple, built in honor of the Taoist goddess of seafarers

TYPICAL Macanese houses, built in 1921, have been transformed into the Taipa House Museum.

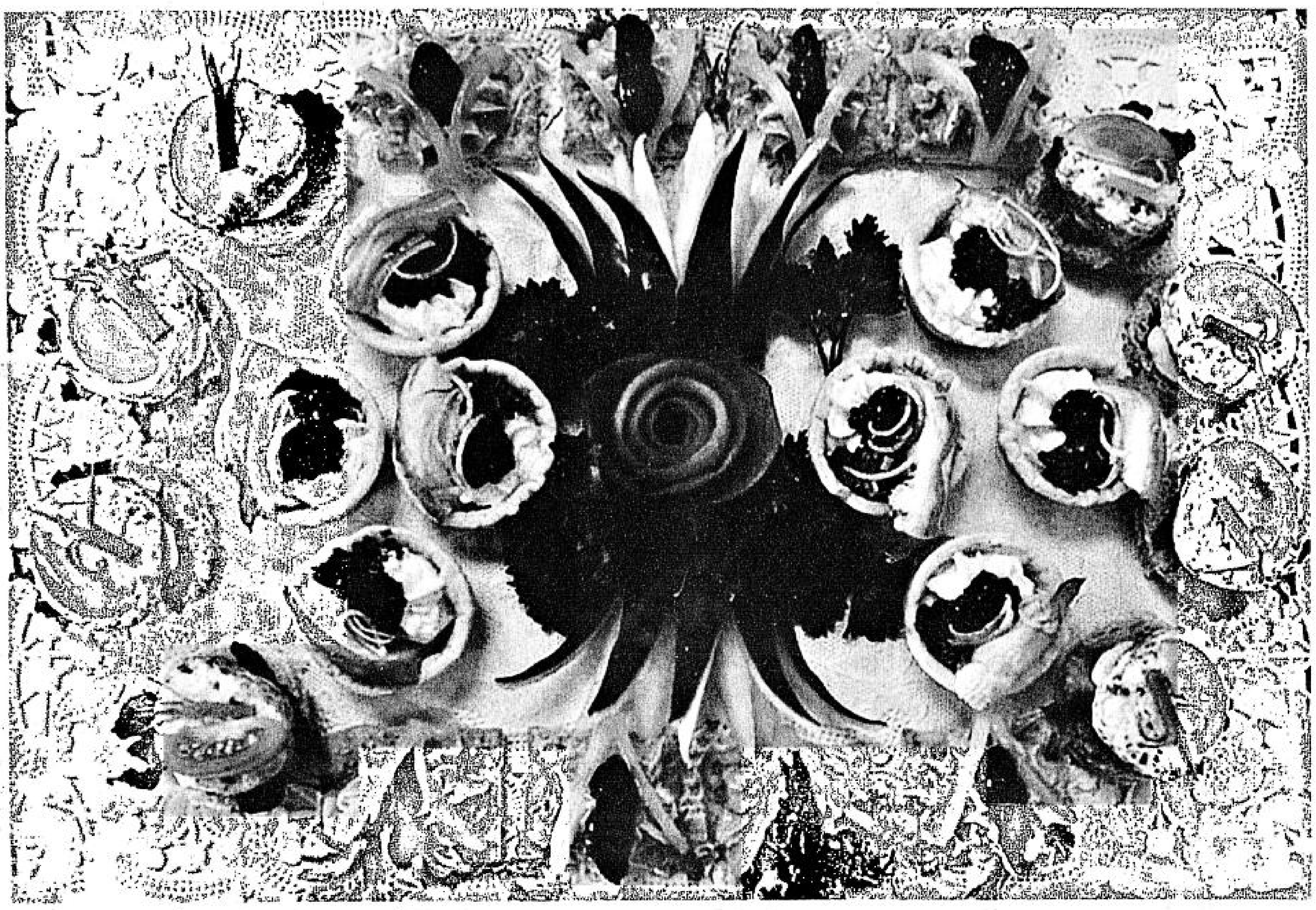
CASINO Lisboa at night

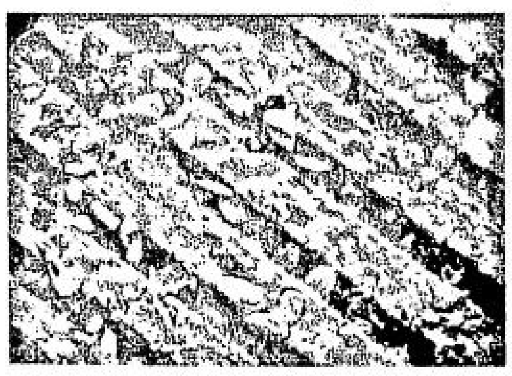


BLACK-SAND beach at Nam Van Lake



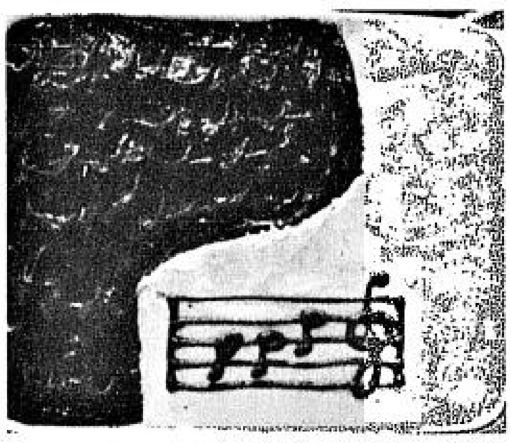
THE LARGO do Senado, with its Portuguese-style mosaic stone pavement, is at the heart of the city.





APPLE Nut Cheese Pie, warm cinnamon-scented apples with cream cheese topped with granola crust and almond slivers

CHOCOLATE and Nugotin Mousse, freshly prepared mousse accompanied by mango or chocolate sauce



PHILIPPINE Airlines' hors d'oeuvres

Up, up and away for Pinoy fare

Text by Vangie Baga-Reyes
Photos by Roger Margallo

AIRLINE food has improved dramatically over the years, in terms of both taste and variety. And one of the airlines that take food seriously is Philippine Airlines. So serious, in fact, that just last week, PAL launched its latest inflight menu for year 2004-2005 and welcomed its newest executive chef.

PAL has hired the services of a highly qualified executive chef to impart his "world-class" culinary expertise to its pool of local chefs. Scottish-born Australian chef Ian Hall McKenzie so impressed PAL with his vast experience in both hotel and airline catering that he has been tasked to "restyle" the airline's inflight menu, with more emphasis on Filipino flavors and ingredients.

"I think it's about time to focus on the Philippines' local resources and come up with dishes that will excite people onboard," McKenzie says.

McKenzie has had 14 years of hotel experience before deciding in the early 1980s to move to a more challenging job—airline catering. He joined Ansett Australia Airlines as an executive chef in 1984. After 11 years with Ansett, McKenzie took his chef's hat to Kuala Lumpur as executive chef for production and development at Malaysia Airlines.

In 1998, he moved to Taipei as corporate executive chef for China Airlines. He was put in charge of menu design for all trans-continental routes and for ensuring the airline's adherence to strict hygiene standards.

Interesting challenge

Last April, McKenzie joined the Philippines' flagship carrier for the "challenge."

"I've traveled a lot in Asia and I have basic ideas of what each country offers," he says. "The Philippines is one interesting country where food is heavily influenced by its history and geography."

For PAL, McKenzie has developed menus that evoke the rich ethnic palates of the islands, but with a modern twist.

"Filipino cuisine has its merits vis-à-vis other world cuisines. What I want to do is revisit old standards, update them and make them contemporary. It's a bit like putting new wheels on an old car," he says.

> Philippine Airlines' new chef has been tasked to 'restyle' the airline's inflight menu to put more emphasis on Filipino flavors and ingredients

McKenzie has taken such Filipino kitchen staples as *patis* (fish sauce), *calamansi* (a local lime), *achuete* (annatto seed), *hibi* (dried shrimp) and coconut vinegar, and incorporated these into his preparations.

"We shouldn't make *patis* like something that's poison out of a jar. Thai fish sauce has been elevated to culinary heights. But the only reason it got there is because the Thais spend a lot of time promoting their food, whereas Filipinos don't have that high an opinion of certain ingredients. Why shouldn't we use *patis*? I like it and am proud of it," he says.

LIME-MARINATED Baked King Prawns topped with tropical salsa

McKenzie will also be using more lettuce and sprouts from Baguio and Tagaytay for his salads, as well as *kangkong* and *talbos ng kamote* in a variety of ways. For dessert, he plans to make ample use of tropical fruits like mango, *langka* and *santol*.

"There are a lot of interesting things you can eat," he says. "You just have to explore your cuisine and reinvent it for the modern clientele. As the country's premier international airline, PAL can promote Filipino food in a big way."

New dishes

So, what new dishes can we expect to find on PAL's menu now that McKenzie has lent his creativity, flair and expertise to the bill of fare?

For the entrée selections, McKenzie dishes out Osso Buco, slow-cooked veal shanks garnished with gremolata; Lime-Marinated Baked King Prawns, topped with mayonnaise and served with tropical salsa; and Pork Shin with Rice Wine, braised in rice and soy sauce, served on a bed of water spinach and seasoned with fish sauce.

For dessert, there are Chocolate and Nugotin Mousse, freshly prepared mousse accompanied with mango or chocolate sauce; Apple Nut Cheese Pie, warm cinnamon-scented apples with cream cheese topped with granola crust and almond slivers; and Mango Strudel, crisp layers of paper-thin crust filled with spiced mango slices.

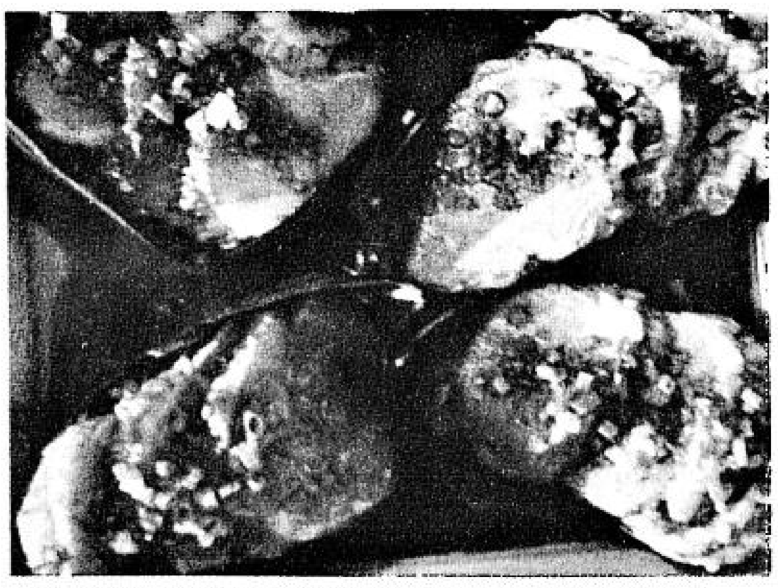
To further infuse and promote genuine Filipino products onboard its flights, PAL has included two internationally known Filipino food brands, Goldilocks and Figaro.

Goldilocks will be a delicious part of PAL domestic trips, offering snacks such as tuna, corned beef and chicken rolls. Complementing these are cake slices that include classic favorites like marble and choco butter and vanilla chiffon. New flavors such as apple and banana nut also comprise the product line-up.

The popular Figaro Classico blend will also be served on all PAL international flights.

The new menus will be gradually introduced on PAL flights this month. By December, all flights will be serving the new recipes and these will run in varying cycles on the flag carrier's international, Asian regional and domestic services until November 2005.

E-mail the author at vbaga@inquirer.com.ph



BRAISED Pork Shin with rice wine on *kangkong* and banana leaf

A MEDLEY of garden greens with rice wine and sweet soya dressing

TRAVELBRIEFS

Nonstop service to Cape Town

Singapore Airlines (SIA) will launch a weekly nonstop service to Cape Town, South Africa, from Singapore on Oct. 31.

The weekly nonstop service will complement the airline's twice-weekly services to the city via Johannesburg.

A "Getaway with SIA" package for South Africa is available from $2,590. This includes economy airfare, a seven-night stay in four- and five-star hotels, full day tours and full board meals. Call SIA at 8104951.

Lean-season package

Pink Patio, a triple-A resort in Boracay Island, recently unveiled its lean season package, available until Nov. 30.

The package includes three days/two nights with deluxe room accommodation, breakfast, one dinner, transfer via Kalibo/Caticlan airports, boat ride to/from Caticlan seaport terminal and welcome drinks, plus free use of the swimming pool, kiddie pool, Jacuzzi and 20-percent discount for the use of Alpha Fitness Center and wall-climbing facilities.

Single occupancy is P6,488 net/person. Twin sharing is P3,888 net/person and extra night with breakfast is P1,285 net/person. Child rate is P825 net/person and extra night with breakfast is P200 net/person.

Airline gets award for excellence

Korean national carrier Asiana Airlines (OZ) received the Skytrax Airline Excellence Award for Asia recently for "truly exemplary levels of staff service delivery." Asiana was also described a "potential five-star airline."

The award was accepted by the airlines' president Chan Bup Park in Seoul.

Skytrax, a London-based private research and audit firm for the airline and air transport industry, selects the year's best airlines and airports through independent study, passenger surveys and forums.

OZ has also received the Gold distinction from the International Flight Catering Association and International Inflight Food Service Association.

The airline launched recently the Manila-Busan flight. Call OZ at 8925688.

Wireless advantage

In response to the demand of traveling Internet users, Traders Hotel Manila recently installed wireless access point (WAP) hot spots in strategic areas of the hotel, and opened coffee.com, a 24-hour business center and Internet café. Call 5237011/3971 to 80.

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PIC SOCUTE2
PIC CHICKBOY
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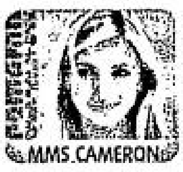
PIC POGIKO2
PIC ILIKE
PIC HERO2
PIC HIFANS
PIC PAKISS6
PIC HOTIN

Wallpapers

MMS NKIDMAN

MMS CTHERON

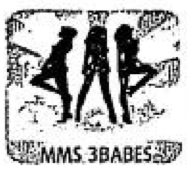

MMS CAMERON

MMS ANNAK1

MMS LTYLER

MMS DREW1

MMS PARIS


MMS 3BABES

MMS OBLOOM

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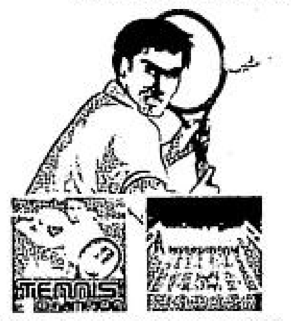
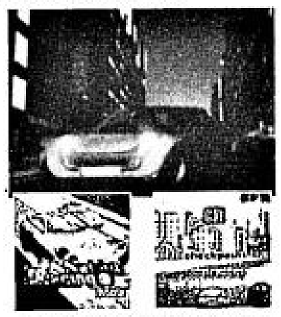
MMS MOTORGUY

Downloadable Mobile Sports Java Games


Send **GAME TENNISCHAMP** to **288.**
For Nokia Series N30, N40, N60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Logos

LOGO CRUSH1
LOGO CRUSH
LOGO DAMN
LOGO DAMAN
LOGO WOW1
LOGO MAMABOL
LOGO LOVETRI
LOGO UCUTE1
LOGO ULAN
LOGO CUTEAKO3
LOGO WINK2
LOGO MVPAPA
LOGO CAMPCRUSH1
LOGO MYHERO
LOGO BABES
LOGO PLAYGIRL
LOGO SEXYMAN
LOGO PLAYBOY1
LOGO POGIME1
LOGO MYANGELS
LOGO LUVANGEL
LOGO SEXYLOLA
LOGO OOZING
LOGO CAMPCRUSH
LOGO PAKISS7
LOGO LOVE6
LOGO SUPADUDE
LOGO KILIG
LOGO DRIMBOY
LOGO PAPAKO
LOGO ATTRACT1
LOGO GANDAKO
LOGO POGIME2
LOGO FLIRT
LOGO SHYLOVE
LOGO LUV2LUV
LOGO BEBEKO
LOGO WANTED
LOGO 7HEARTS
LOGO THINK2

P.O.W.

PICK OF THE WEEK

POW	KEYWORD
Wacky Logos	**POWWACK** NEW
Logos	**POWLOGO**
Girl Logos	**POWGAL**
Guy Logos	**POWGUY**
Pic Message	**POWPIC**
Mono Ringtones	**POWTONE**
Poly Ringtones	**POWPOLY**
OPM Ringtones	**POWOPM**
Rock Ringtones	**POWROCK**
Wallpaper	**POWMMS**

Send keyword to **288**.

Song Title	Artist	Keywords	
Are You That Somebody	*Aaliyah*	**TONE AREUTHAT**	**POLY AREUTHAT**
I Wanna Be With You	*Mandy Moore*	**TONE WANNABEW**	**POLY IWANNAB**
What Can I Do	*The Corrs*	**TONE WATCANIDO**	**POLY WATCANIDO**
Be With You	*Atomic Kitten*	**TONE BEWITH**	**POLY BWYOU**
Sa Iyo	*Sarah Geronimo*	**TONE SAIYO**	**POLY SAIYO**
Hero	*Enrique Iglesias*	**TONE HERO**	**POLY HERO**
Too Lost In You	*Sugababes*	**TONE LOSTINU**	**POLY LOSTINU**
If I Ain't Got You	*Alicia Keys*	**TONE AINTGOTU**	**POLY AINTGOTU**
Your Smiling Face	*James Taylor*	**TONE SMILEFACE**	**POLY SMILEFACE**
Baby Boy	*Beyonce*	**TONE BABYBOY**	**POLY BABYBOY**
Super Duper Love	*Joss Stone*	**TONE SUPRDUPR**	**POLY SUPRDUPR**
Take My Breath Away	*Jessica Simpson*	**TONE TAKEBREATH**	**POLY TAKEBREATH**
Signed, Sealed, Delivered, I'm Yours	*Blue feat. Stevie Wonder*	**TONE SIGNED**	**POLY SIGNED**
Talk About Our Love	*Brandy feat. Kanye West*	**TONE TALKABOUT**	**POLY TALKABOUT**
I'll Be	*Edwin McCain*	**TONE IBE**	**POLY IBE**
Until I Get Over You	*Christina Milian*	**TONE GETOVER**	**POLY GETOVER**
Now That I Have You	*The Company*	**TONE NOWDATIHAVU**	**POLY NOWDATIHAVU**
If You Had My Love	*Jennifer Lopez*	**TONE IFYOUHAD**	**POLY IFYOUHAD**
Your Song	*Elton John*	**TONE YOURSONG**	**POLY YOURSONG**
Everytime	*Britney Spears*	**TONE EVERYTIME**	**POLY EVERYTIME**

How to download a logo, ring tone or picture message:

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288

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Note. In order for you to identify which musical work the ringtone in question is based on, we have, in addition to the song title, referred an artist who has made the song well known. The artist in question has not participated in the production of the ringtone. Questions? Comments? Concerns? Call the SMART Hotline at 888-1111, text us at 888 (P1.00 per message sent in excess of the FREE TEXT allocation), e-mail us at customercare@smart.com.ph, or visit the SMART Wireless Center nearest you.

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2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

GMA 7 reporter Richelle Sy and Iloilo businessman Aldrich Kho prove that opposites do attract.

And they said it couldn't happen!

Distance seemed just one of the many obstacles to Aldrich Kho and Richelle Sy's marriage

SY organized her wedding in between covering the presidential elections.

SHE thought her sister was crazy for fixing her up with someone from Iloilo. He thought wooing a career girl in Manila would never work out.

She thought he was too provincial, needed a haircut, and too straight for her. He thought she was too independent and committed to her career to want to relocate to the province.

They thought that one dinner at Sugi in Greenbelt 2 last year was going to be strictly one-off.

But, regardless of what they thought, it seemed God had other plans for GMA 7 reporter Richelle Sy and Iloilo-based businessman Aldrich Kho.

The occasional text messages from Kho to Sy soon averaged 80 to 100 a day. Soon he was also burning the phone lines from Iloilo to Manila. Kho's visits to Manila also became more frequent. He would pick her up from her office or Malacañang, or wherever she was assigned.

A little over a month after their meeting, the two officially became a couple. And right after the hectic coverage of the October visit in Manila of United States President George W. Bush, she accepted his marriage proposal over dinner at Blue Bacon and Green Eggs. They set the date for the wedding on July 11.

Planning the wedding, however, was not easy—he was in Iloilo and she was in Manila. Sy had to make her calls to suppliers in between trips around the country as she was covering President Macapagal-Arroyo's campaign.

Getting a venue was the first problem. With the wedding set for July, it seemed the bride had to abandon her dream of a garden wedding in favor of a church or hotel. But hotels were fully booked. The only place available was Fernwood Gardens. Sy's dream of a garden wedding was going to be fulfilled, after all.

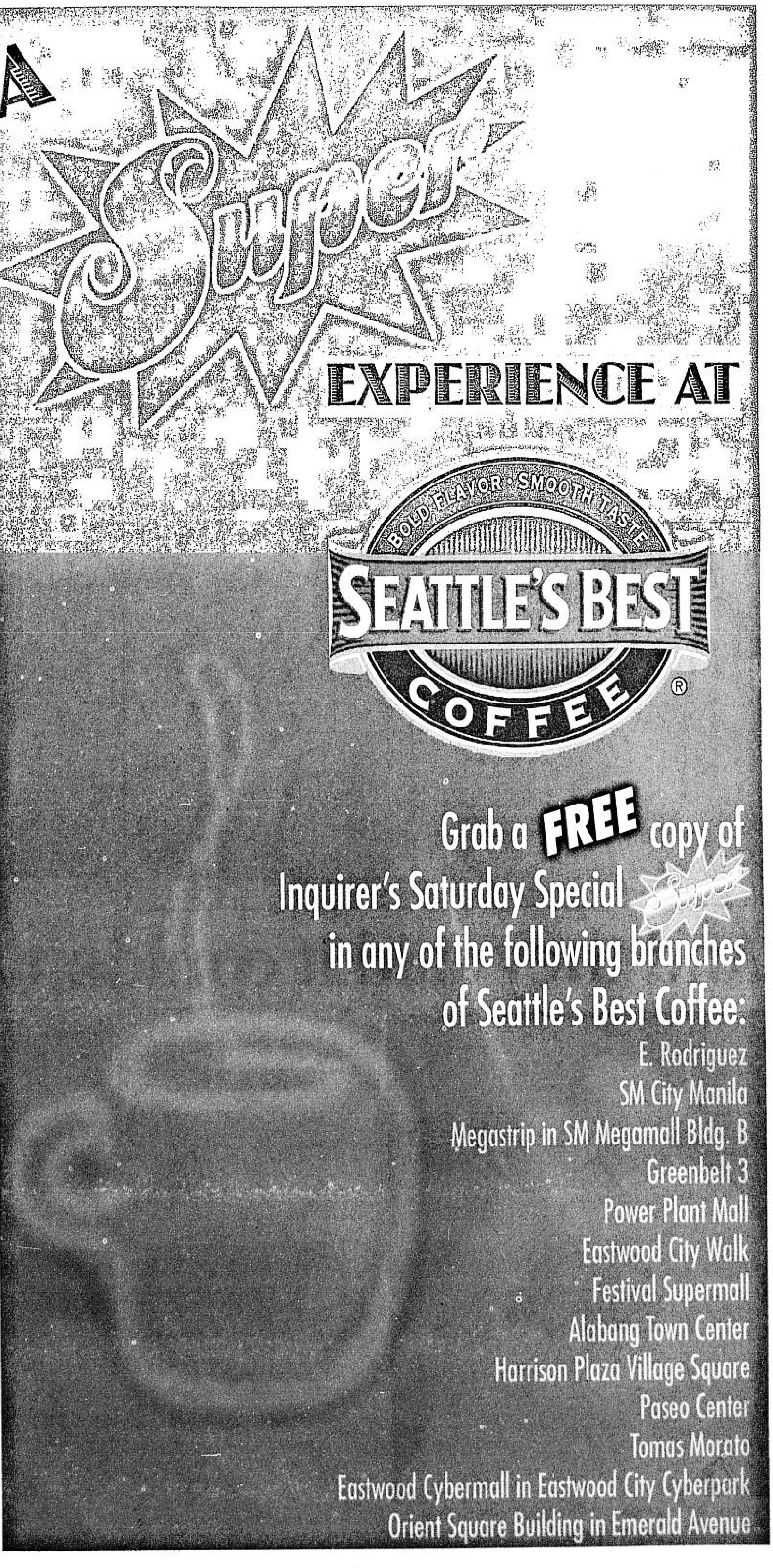
But tragedy struck. Sy's father suddenly passed away in early June, some six weeks before the wedding. With everything already in place for the wedding,

AND THEY/ H2

THE BRIDE wears a strapless ivory gown in Mikado silk by designer Marianne Lazaro, who also made orange and fuchsia gowns for the entourage.

WITH HER father's death a few weeks before the wedding, the bride is escorted by her mother, Violeta Sy, and uncle Jayme Sy.

THE NEWLYWEDS with the bride's colleague in GMA 7, Vicky Morales



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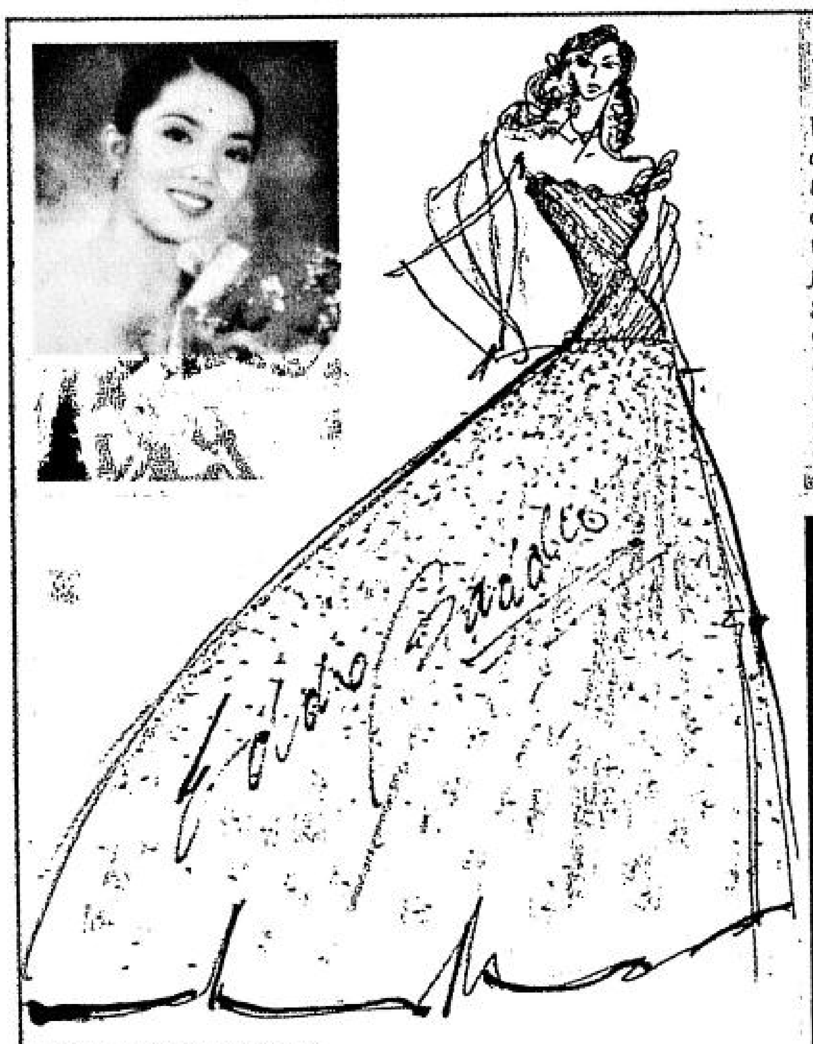
Milestones

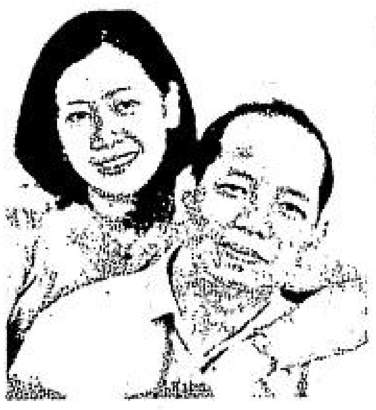
We're accepting announcements of weddings and engagements. Please send the following typewritten information: names of engaged couple, names of parents, date and place of wedding, gown designer and other related information. Readers can send sketches of gowns and pictures of the couple to the INQUIRER *office, or P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City, or e-mail lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph. This will be printed depending on space availability and at no cost to the sender.*



CALIMBAS DEBUT

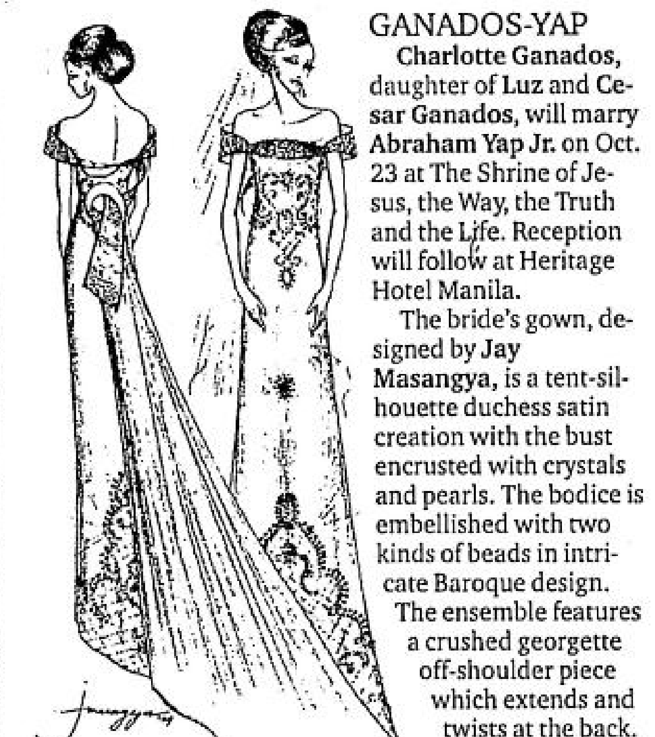
Krystle Rodulfo Calimbas will celebrate her 18th birthday at the Crown Royale Hotel, Balanga City, Bataan, on Sept. 11. A biology sophomore of De La Salle University, she is the daughter of Doctors **Catalino** and **Edna Calimbas**. The debutante will wear an **Eddie Baddeo** creation—a celadon green and purple bustier gown made of shantung and chiffon. The bodice is embossed with flower appliques. The full bias skirt is embellished with caviar beads.

Music will be provided by the DLSU Pop Orchestra, where Krystle is a violinist and head of the string section. Choreography is by **Kenneth Halili** and overall coordination by **Wewe Ocampo**.



MANIO-RAZOTE

Jesus Cruz Manio, son of **Antonio Manio** and **Erlinda Cruz,** will marry **Pinky Garcia Razote,** daughter of **Orlando Razote** and **Nelia Balgua,** on Sept. 25, at the San Agustin Church in Intramuros, Manila. Reception will follow at The Orchidarium, Rizal Park, Manila.



GANADOS-YAP

Charlotte Ganados, daughter of **Luz** and **Cesar Ganados,** will marry **Abraham Yap Jr.** on Oct. 23 at The Shrine of Jesus, the Way, the Truth and the Life. Reception will follow at Heritage Hotel Manila.

The bride's gown, designed by **Jay Masangya,** is a tent-silhouette duchess satin creation with the bust encrusted with crystals and pearls. The bodice is embellished with two kinds of beads in intricate Baroque design. The ensemble features a crushed georgette off-shoulder piece which extends and twists at the back.

WYRZYNSKI-MOSINABRE

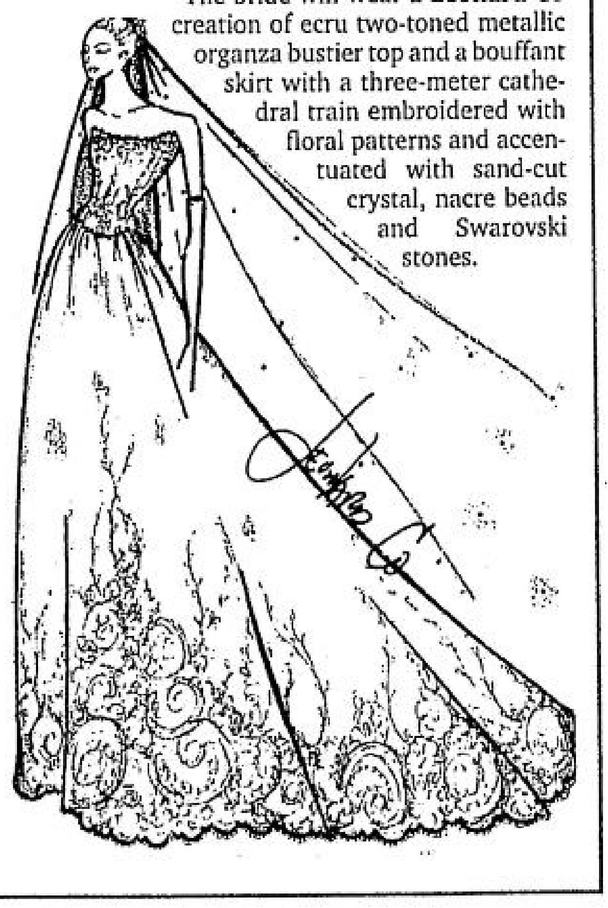
Abegail Mosinabre, daughter of **Angelino** and **Rosalinda Mosinabre,** and **John Joseph Wyrzynski,** son of **John Alexandar** and **Adelaida** (deceased) **Wyrzynski,** exchanged vows recently at the Saint Vincent Church, Ashfield, Sydney, New South Wales, Australia.

Ben Farrales designed the bride's wedding gown using ivory pearls, beads and rhinestones on the front bustier down to the gown's edge. Afternoon tea followed at the couple's residence in Strathfield. Dinner was at the Black Stump Restaurant, Bankstown, Sydney.

REMONTE-OPPUS

Anna Marie Oppus, daughter of **Danilo** and **Imelda Oppus,** will exchange vows with **Edgar Ryan Remonte,** son of **Edgardo** and **Salvacion Remonte,** on Sept. 8 at the Santuario de San Jose, Greenhills East.

The bride will wear a **Leonard Co** creation of ecru two-toned metallic organza bustier top and a bouffant skirt with a three-meter cathedral train embroidered with floral patterns and accentuated with sand-cut crystal, nacre beads and Swarovski stones.



Prayer and reflection via phone

NOW, your cellular phone can be your spiritual companion with Smart Communications Inc.'s Mobile Rosary, Mobile Way of the Cross and Daily Reflections.

These wireless services assist subscribers in praying the Rosary even without a beaded rosary on hand, or complete the Way of the Cross without having to walk through the 14 stations in church.

The programs take the subscriber through the prayers, providing inspirational texts and appropriate images along the way, all on the screen of their cellular phone.,

The Mobile Rosary helps count the beads by providing a visual rosary to follow, moving onto the next bead whenever "Amen" appears and is clicked on the phone. The program also provides passages and images that help the subscribers reflect on the meaning of each mystery.

Similarly, the Mobile Way of the Cross guides the subscriber through the prayers while presenting appropriate images and passages to help the subscriber meditate on the meaning of each station.

The Mobile Rosary and Mobile Way of the Cross are available to Smart and Talk 'N Text subscribers who own Java-capable phones. Subscribers can download these programs by visiting the Smart WAP site on their cellular phone, scrolling down to select Java Applications and then clicking on Spiritual.

The Mobile Rosary and Mobile Stations of the Cross will be listed as one of the downloadable programs. Each download costs P30.

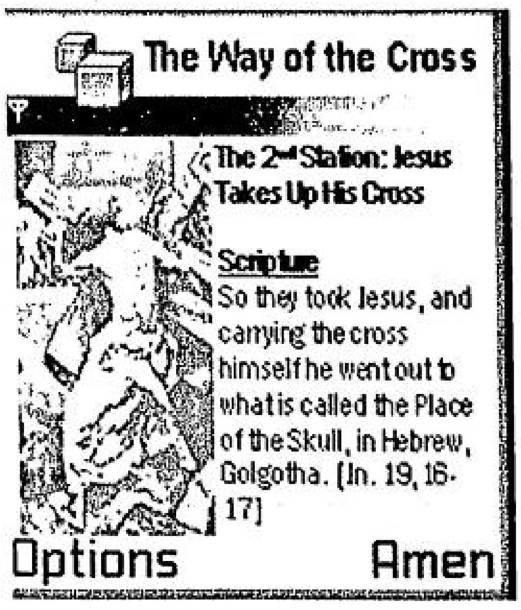
Daily Reflections is a subscription service that allows the subscriber to download and receive reflections and images on different themes from the Mass on that day.

Also available to Smart and Talk 'N Text subscribers, subscription to the service requires sending "Reflectxt" for SMS or "Reflectmms" for MMS to 352. The subscriber will receive an SMS/MMS reflection daily, until they unsubscribe.

To stop receiving Daily Reflections, text "Reflectxt Off" for SMS or "Reflectmms Off" for MMS, and send it to 352. The subscriber can also avail of a single reflection on the day of their choice by texting "Reflecttxt Now" for SMS or "Reflectmms Now" for MMS and sending to 352.

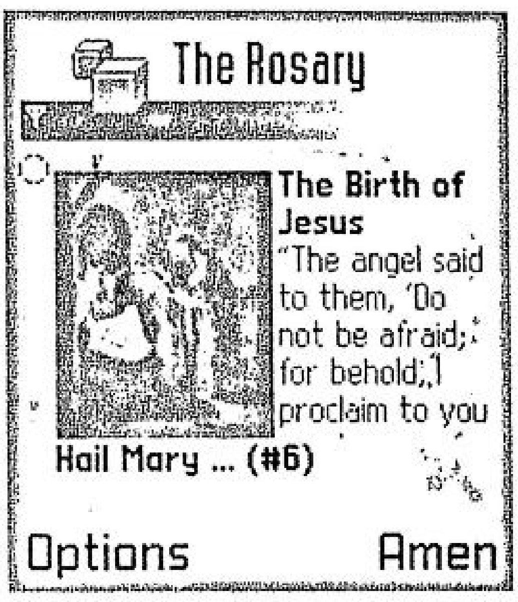
If any problems occur, the subscriber can ask for help by texting "Reflect, Reflectxt Help" or "Reflectmms Help" to 352. Each SMS reflection costs P2.50 and each MMS reflection costs P5 for Addict subscribers and P10 for non-Addict subscribers.

For subscribers who wish to have a month's worth of reflections already on their phone, a downloadable version of the Daily Reflections is also available on the Smart WAP website, along with the other spiritual programs under Java Applications.

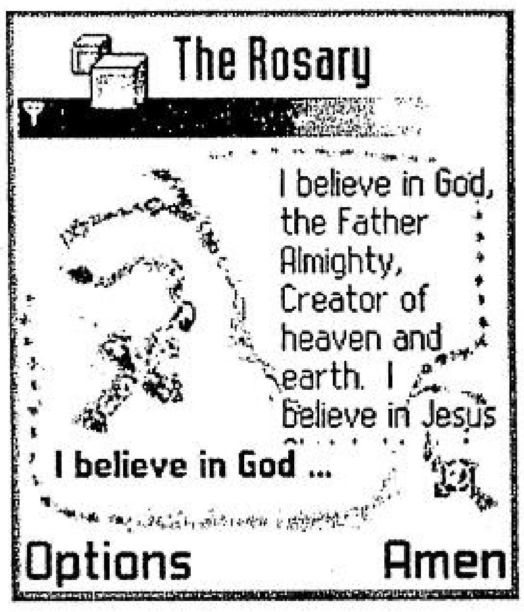


The 2nd Station: Jesus Takes Up His Cross

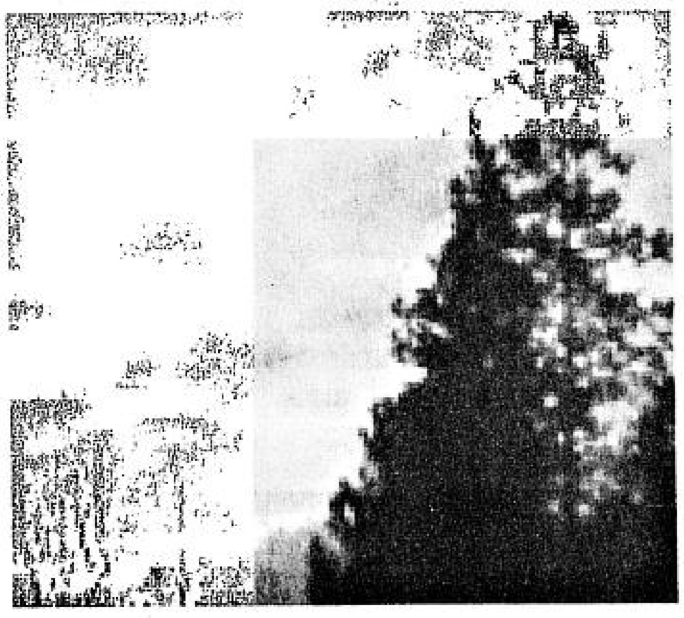
Scripture
So they took Jesus, and carrying the cross himself he went out to what is called the Place of the Skull, in Hebrew, Golgotha. [Jn. 19, 16-17]



The Birth of Jesus
"The angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you
Hail Mary ... (#6)



I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus
I believe in God ...



SAMPLE Daily Reflection (Text):

Jesus, Risen Lord, you are present among us, though invisible to our human sight. Through our gaze of faith, we know that we can perceive you. Where do we encounter today, Risen Lord? Are you not with us through the words of Sacred Scripture? We meet, hear and listen to you as we read the Easter stories. The holy women, the apostles and disciples see you, Living Lord. We too encounter you, as we read the Gospels, attentively, lovingly, prayerfully.

And they said it couldn't happen!

HE did not think a relationship with a career girl in Manila would work.

From page H1

both families decided against a postponement.

July 11 was bright and sunny. Guests came from the groom's native Iloilo, and from as far away as the United States.

The bride wore a strapless ivory gown made of Mikado silk, with showers of Japanese beads and Swarovski crystals by designer Marianne Lazaro. She was escorted by her mother, Violeta Sy, and uncle Jayme Sy. Lazaro also made the orange and fuchsia gowns of the entourage and the groom's Chinese-inspired *piña* barong.

The Coral and Cycad Gardens in Fernwood were filled by Robert Blancaflor's 1816 Flowers with tulips, roses, irises and liliums in shades of red, orange, yellow, pink, purple and green. The flower shop also made Sy's bouquet of hand-tied burnt-orange calla lilies.

Bright orange and fuchsia were also the dominant colors of the cupcake tree filled with apple walnut and carrot walnut cupcakes by Celebration Cakes.

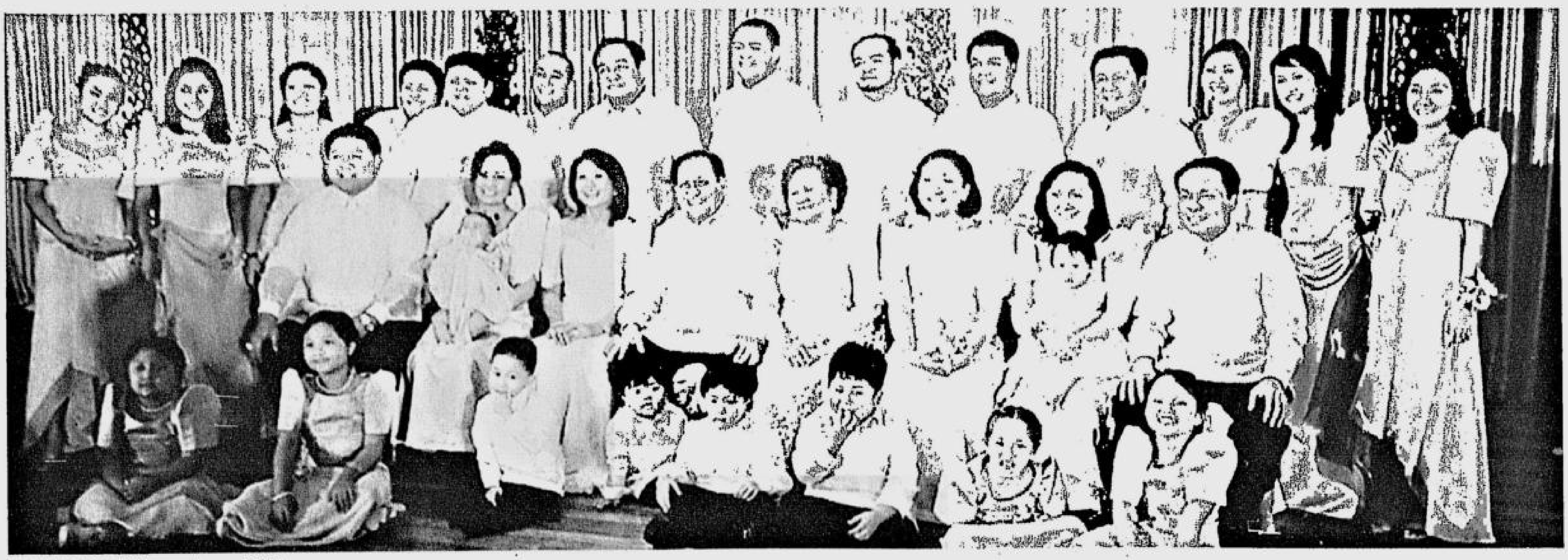
The INQUIRER's Chito Vecina and Ernie Sarmiento, along with Edwin Tuyay, photographed the wedding, while Arkeomedia videotaped the event.

Sentimental Groove provided the entertainment at the ceremony and reception, while Visions and Ideas ably helped coordinate the event.

After the wedding, the couple hied off to El Nido's Lagen Island Resort. They will fly to Europe later on an extended honeymoon trip.

THE BRIDE with cousin Alvin Liu

INQUIRER photographers Ernie Sarmiento and Chito Vecina, and Edwin Tuyay photographed the wedding for their friend.



WITH THEIR children and grandchildren

One mistake, *50 years* of bliss

GOLDEN COUPLE. Former Cebu Gov. Pablo and Esperanza Garcia

IT was raining on July 28, 1952. Esperanza, a stunning second-year law student, was waiting in the halls of the University of San Carlos College of Law when a dashing Pablo appeared.

He was a dead ringer for his brother, the late Jesus Garcia Jr., who was then a law professor at the university. "Do we have classes tonight?" the young woman asked.

She mistook Pablo for his brother. Realizing her mistake, she immediately turned her back and walked away.

Pablo felt a spark and decided he was not going to let it pass. So, he ran after her. They got married two years later.

Pablo, Pabling to everyone, a bar topnotcher, later became governor of Cebu. The beautiful Esperanza, also known as Inday, became a judge.

Last June, the Garcias celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. President Macapagal-Arroyo and First Gentleman Mike Arroyo were principal sponsors.

The Garcias' son, Winston, president and general manager of the Government Service Insurance System, was best man. Maid of honor was their daughter Gwendolyn.

Groomsmen were Nelson, Byron, Marlon and Pablo John Garcia, while bridesmaids were Yvette, Ma. Linda and Isabel Garcia and Farla Empemano. Junior groomsmen were Christopher and Jed Garcia, while junior bridesmaids were Ma. Estella Codilla and Josefa Garcia.

PABLING and Esperanza slice their four-tiered wedding cake.

THE GARCIA siblings—Byron, Farla, Winston, Gwen, Marlon and Pablo—render a surprise song number at the reception.

Byron Pablo, Pablo Eufrocino, Pablo John IV, Teresa Esperanza and Esperanza Concepcion Garcia and Ma. Esperanza Christina Codilla were secondary sponsors.

Flower girls were Katrina Margarita and Raiza Anastacia Empemano and Sofia Inez and Gail May Anjelou Garcia. Nelson Nathaniel Garcia was ring bearer, while Pablo Luis was coin bearer.

The concelebrated Mass at the Cebu Metropolitan Cathedral was followed by dinner at the Cebu Grand Convention Center. Among the guests were Sen. Manny Villar, former Ombudsman Aniano Desierto, Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. chair Efraim Genuino, Malacañang chief of staff Rigoberto Tiglao, GSIS board of trustees member Lenny de Jesus, members of Cebu's provincial board, and mayors.

Gold and Filipiniana were the motif that evening. Women wore gold ternos, while the men were in barong. The bride wore an ornate gold *piña* dress and a gold headdress while the governor was in a traditional barong Tagalog.

Hours before the wedding, Cebu's archbishop, Ricardo J. Cardinal Vidal, told the couple that Pope John Paul II was giving his papal blessing to the Garcias' renewal of vows.

SEN. Manny Villar proposes a toast to the couple. Joining him are (from left) the couple's son, GSIS president and general manager Winston Garcia, Pagcor chair Efraim Genuino and Malacañang chief of staff Rigoberto Tiglao.

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo and First Gentleman Miguel Arroyo are the principal sponsors. The Garcias' daughter, Cebu Gov. Gwen Garcia (third from left), stood as maid of honor, while their son, Winston (rightmost), was best man.

The Queen of all Spain

PURELY PERSONAL

Josephine Darang

IT came as a surprise when we drove from Fatima, Portugal to Guadalupe, Spain, on our recent trip to find that there was an early image of Our Lady of Guadalupe in the monastery run before by the monks of St. Jerome. Guadalupe is on the southern slopes of the Altamira hills, branching off from the Villuercas.

The sanctuary of Our Lady dates back to the end of the 13th century, during the reign of Alfonso XI, king of Castile and Leon. So the image is much older than the icon in the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico because Our Lady appeared to Juan Diego in 1531, or the 16th century.

The monks of St. Jerome maintained the monastery for four centuries until 1835, when the sanctuary was converted into a secular parish.

We attended Mass in one of the rooms, celebrated by Fr. Carlito Pono. Afterward, we were met in a lobby by a priest who brought us to a room, then unlocked a smaller one where the image was enthroned. We kissed the relic of the Virgin and prayed.

Although the devotion to Our Lady began in the 13th century, she was only canonically crowned in 1928 as queen of all Spanish provinces by the primate Cardinal Don Pedro Segura, special legate to Pope Pius XI, and by King Alfonso XIII. The sanctuary, elevated into a basilica by Pope Pius XII in 1955, was visited by Pope John Paul II in 1982.

Origin of the image

In Guadalupe, one couldn't help but ask where the image of Mary came from. Some ancient manuscripts, attributed to St. Lucas as author, suggest the image was from the 1st century A.D. It seems when the evangelist died in Acaya (Asia Minor), he was buried with the image.

When the saint's body was moved to Constantinople in the mid-4th century, the image went with him. From there the image was taken to Rome by Cardinal Gregorio, who had been living in Constantinople as legate to Pope Pelagio II (582 A.D.)

In the year 590 A.D., Gregorio Magno was elected Pope. He was so devoted to the image that he exhibited it in his oratory. Mary's protection through the image became evident on one occasion.

Pope Gregorio led a solemn procession to entreat Mary's protection for Rome, then in the grip of an epidemic. As the image was taken through the streets amid the clamor of people, they saw how the plague died.

An angel appeared over a castle (which since then has been called St. Angelo), cleaning blood from a sword, while at the same time a choir of angels sang: "Queen of Heaven be glad! Hallelujah!" The Pontiff movingly replied: "Pray for us to the Lord! Hallelujah!"

"Gregorio Magno, through his brother Isidoro, sent this image as a present of goodwill to San Leandro, archbishop of Seville. During the journey from Rome to Seville, it calmed a strong sea-storm, arriving safe and sound at the Sevillian river port where it was received by San Leandro and enthroned in the main church, where it was venerated until the beginnings of the Moorish invasion, 711 A.D.

"Toward 714 A.D., some clergymen, who were fleeing from the Moorish peril in Seville, brought with them this image and some saint relics which they hid in the banks of the River Guadalupe, near the southern outskirt of the Altamira hills, not very far from Villuercas. Through this, the cult of this image was lost during five centuries, until providently it reappeared during the reconquest toward the end of the 13th century or beginnings of the 14th century." (Source: Visitor's Guide to Guadalupe)

A herdsman's vision

The visitor's guide tells the story of Our Lady's appearance to a poor herdsman, a native of Caceres, who found his cow dead. She told him the cow was going to live. He was to go to the priests and tell them to dig where the cow (who was now alive) died and they would find her image under the stones.

Our Lady said: "And when they dig it up, tell them not to remove it from this place, where it now is, that they should make a little house in which they should put it. The time will come when in this place a church, a notable house and a very big village will be built."

Everything happened as Our Lady said. She was named Our Lady of Guadalupe because Guadalupe meant "hidden river"—the place where her image was found. The herdsman's name was Gil Cordero.

Bicol church needs help

The Parish of Our Lady of the Holy Rosary in barrio Balugo, Oas, Albay, will mark its 50th anniversary as a parish Oct. 11-16. Fr. Manuel Balute is asking for help in the repair of the church. He also needs an image of San Lorenzo Ruiz de Manila, which will be installed before October.

Please call Father Manny at 052-2126140 or fax 052-8357384 or write him at the above address. Thank you for your kindness.

500 children in Cagayan meet

Five hundred children are attending the First National Congress of the Pontifical Missionary Societies at the Lourdes College in Cagayan de Oro City on Sept. 3 to 5, according to Msgr. Gilbert Garcera, national director.

Catholic Travel pilgrimage

Catholic Travel is making a trip to Paris, Lourdes, Liseux and Medjugorge. Please call Sis Elenita at 6331296 or Kathy at 5232523.

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LEE Stafford: This hair doctor is a hip doctor.

Poker for your hair? You betcha!

STRAIGHT hair in under 10 hours

Don't be fooled by the pink bottles. These products have the power to zap life back into your tired locks

By Pam Pastor

YOU can't deny it. Hair makes a big difference. Just ask Jennifer Aniston, Henri Calayag and the bald man on the bus.

And since not everyone is born with gorgeous hair, the rest of us have to work harder to make sure our locks are lustrous.

Lee Stafford, a famous young hairdresser from the UK, knows all about that. His new hair care line, which comes in funky hot pink packaging (with colored barcodes—the first in history), provides the answers to three of the biggest hair problems: how to achieve sleekness, how to make sure your color stays vibrant, and how to zap limp hair back to life.

Stafford, who says he created his own range because he could never find what he's looking for in hair products, takes a very personal approach when it comes to his goods. Each product bears his signature and has a little note from him. "I hope you enjoy this range as much as I did creating it. Have fun with it and look wicked in it."

Creativity is something Stafford doesn't seem to run out of. He has two salons in London, has appeared on television (he's a regular on "This Morning"), has written for popular publications (The Independent, Hair Dresser's Journal, GQ, FHM and Maxim) and has won a number of awards (Men's British Hairdresser of the Year, Easter British Hairdresser of the Year, and was a finalist for British Manager of the Year).

This hair doctor has turned fans out of celebrities. Mariah Carey has used his Poker Straight DeHumidifier, Mena Suvari, Rachel Stevens and Brittany Murphy use his Poker Straight Flat Iron Protection Shine Mist, and Dido swears by his entire Poker Straight range.

Thanks to the introduction of his products in Rustan's Essenses just a couple of weeks ago, Pinoy hair will now have a chance to enjoy what these celebrities have been raving about.

Hit with Pinays

Rejoycee G. Siy, brand assistant for cosmetics and toiletries at Rustan's, believes that Stafford's Poker Straight range will be a hit with Filipinas—especially those who are obsessed about maintaining ultra-straight, ultra-sleek hair.

As someone who has sat through three excruciating 10-hour hair rebonding sessions, this author certainly welcomes any less painful and less costly alternative.

There are five products under Lee Stafford's Poker Straight line.

Poker Straight Shampoo and Conditioner contain Mega Quat, which helps tame kinky hair. Poker Straight DeHumidifier can be your No. 1 weapon against frizz. This light solution will calm your hair, leaving you in command.

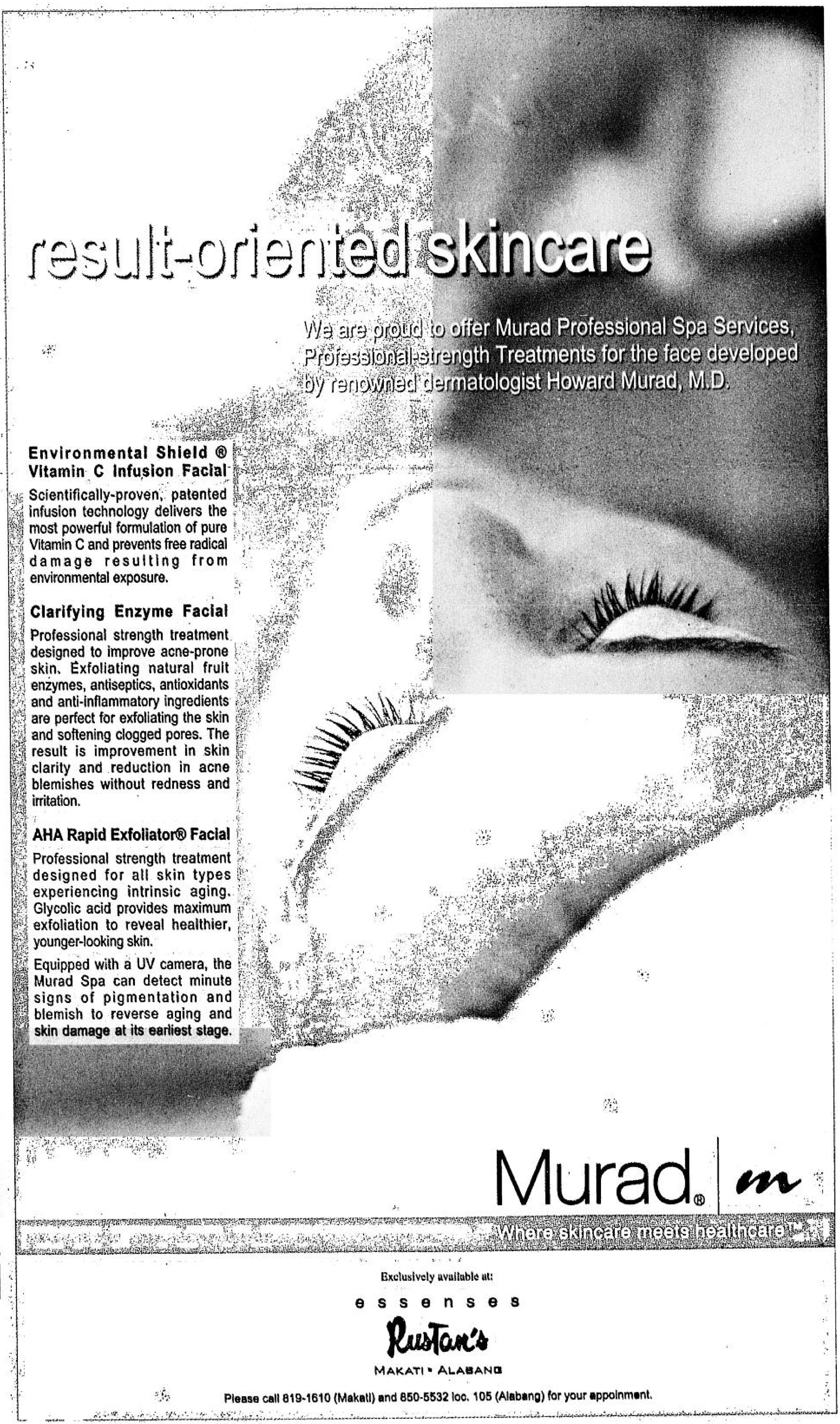
Poker Straight Flat Iron Mist contains green tea extracts that protect your hair from damage caused by excessive use of the flat iron. Poker Straight Glistening Hair Balm has fast become a favorite. Applying a little of this

POKER/17

LEE Stafford'S Poker Straight line can give you sleek locks, minus the pain. PHOTO: ROGER CARPIO

Quick hair tips

- Regularly wash your hair, especially if you often use styling products.
- Use a conditioner to keep your hair perfect.
- Make sure you rinse well after using your shampoo and conditioner; it will stop your hair from looking dull and lifeless.
- If you rinse with cold water, you'll get flatter hair with less volume.



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PRESCRIPTIVES Dermapolish System includes the Treatment Cream, Post Treatment Soothing Mist and Lipid Barrier Cream. [illegible]

DESIREE Go, Prescriptives user

NICOLE Syyap, Dermalogica user

LEAH Fabia, La Prairie user

Your skin's best friends

From page 8

La Prairie proffers a luxurious two-part treatment that polishes and perfects skin on the face and body, diminishing lines and stimulating micro circulation.

Cellular Microdermabrasion Cream is an exfoliating treatment that gently removes the dull, aging outer layer of skin not only on the face but also on trouble spots as knees, elbows, heels, where thickened skin and calluses occur. The cream comes with three specialized sponge applicators: the white is for the face; pink for the body; and black for the most rigorous problem areas.

Applying Cellular Softening and Balancing Lotion is the second step. It helps restore an optimum pH balance in the skin, improves suppleness and provides anti-inflammatory benefits.

"These products can be used in conjunction with other treatments, with the exception of other exfoliation products, which should be discontinued one week prior to beginning treatment," says Tricia Bolido, La Prairie brand manager.

Bolido adds that microdermabrasion should be performed before taking a bath every other day for a five-day period—massaging no longer than one minute on facial skin, two minutes on other areas of the body. Then the skin should rest for five days, before undertaking a once-a-week maintenance program.

Anti-inflammatory

"What's good with La Prairie is its anti-inflammatory lotion, which protects the skin after microdermabrasion," says Leah Fabia, 42, who owns Philippine Nautical Training Center. She has stopped going to a facial center for exfoliation since she used La Prairie products a month ago.

"I used to have a freckle on the left cheek, which I cover with a concealer. La Prairie products have helped even my skin tone and diminish lines. I used to have foot spa twice a month. Now, I don't go to a spa that often to enjoy this relaxing treatment."

Prescriptives' Dermapolish is a three-part system that delivers results comparable to an aesthetician's professional microdermabrasion without the usual redness and irritation—or expense.

Dermapolish Treatment Cream sloughs away surface skin cells to accelerate renewal and uncover new skin. With weekly use, it diminishes the appearance of age spots and sun damage and smoothes away the look of fine lines and wrinkles.

Post Treatment Soothing Mist is an anti-oxidant mist, which cools and hydrates post-Dermapolish skin with a complex of Brazilian red algae extracts, green tea and aloe vera.

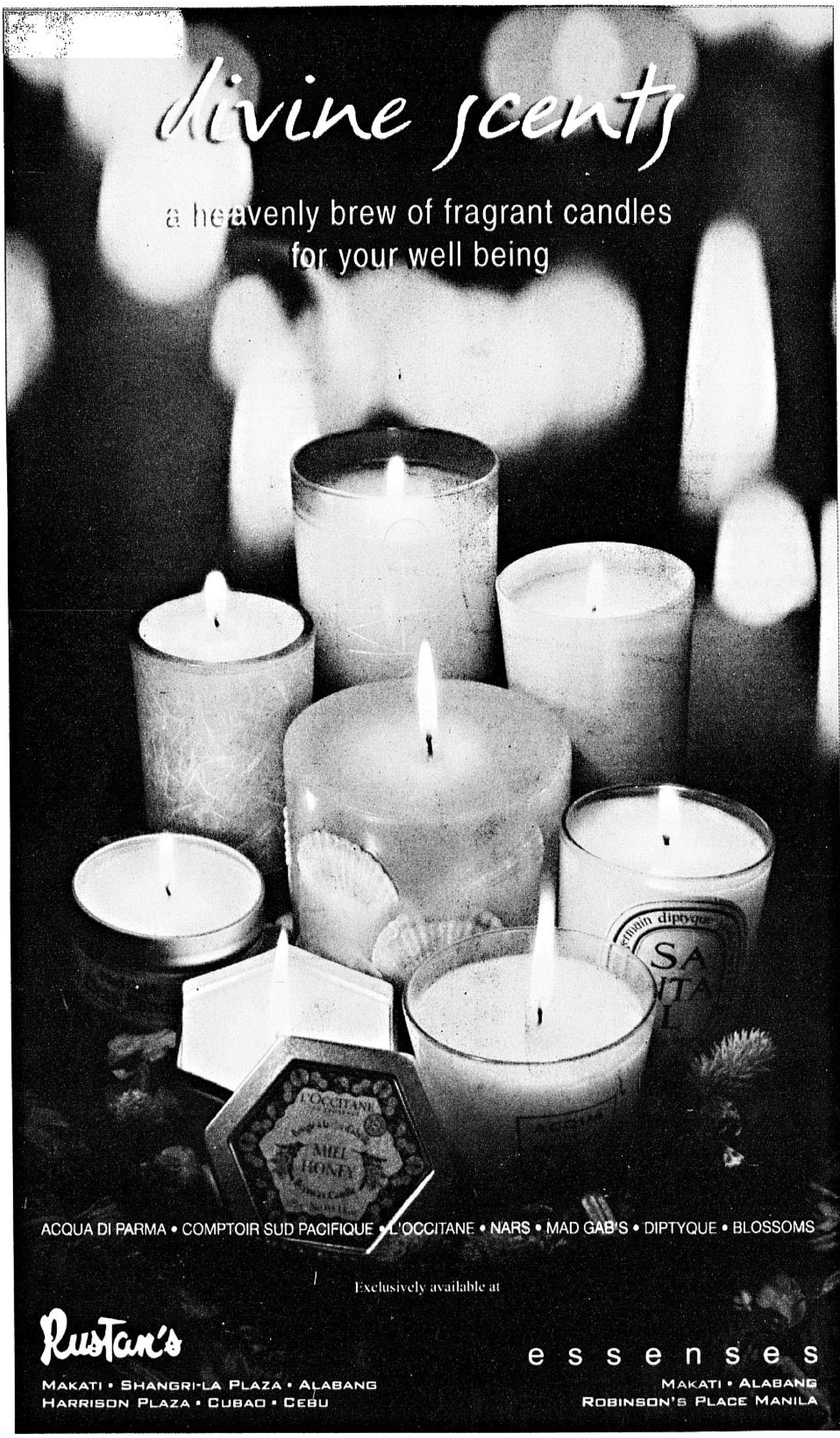
Lipid Barrier Cream is a regenerative moisture formula which restores the skin's protective lipid barrier up to 67 percent.

Desiree Go, 28, who works for First Quadrant, started using these products after spending Holy Week in Boracay this year. "My skin darkened that my foundation didn't match my skin tone. Since I've been using the make up line of Prescriptives for four years now, its beauty consultant recommended the microdermabrasion products to rejuvenate my dull skin. After a month, my skin truly improved."

The microdermabrasion products of Dermalogica, Estée Lauder, La Prairie and Prescriptives are available at Rustan's Essenses.

E-mail the author at rburgos@inquirer.com.ph

TRICIA Bolido, La Prairie and Dior brand manager, uses La Prairie exfoliation products.



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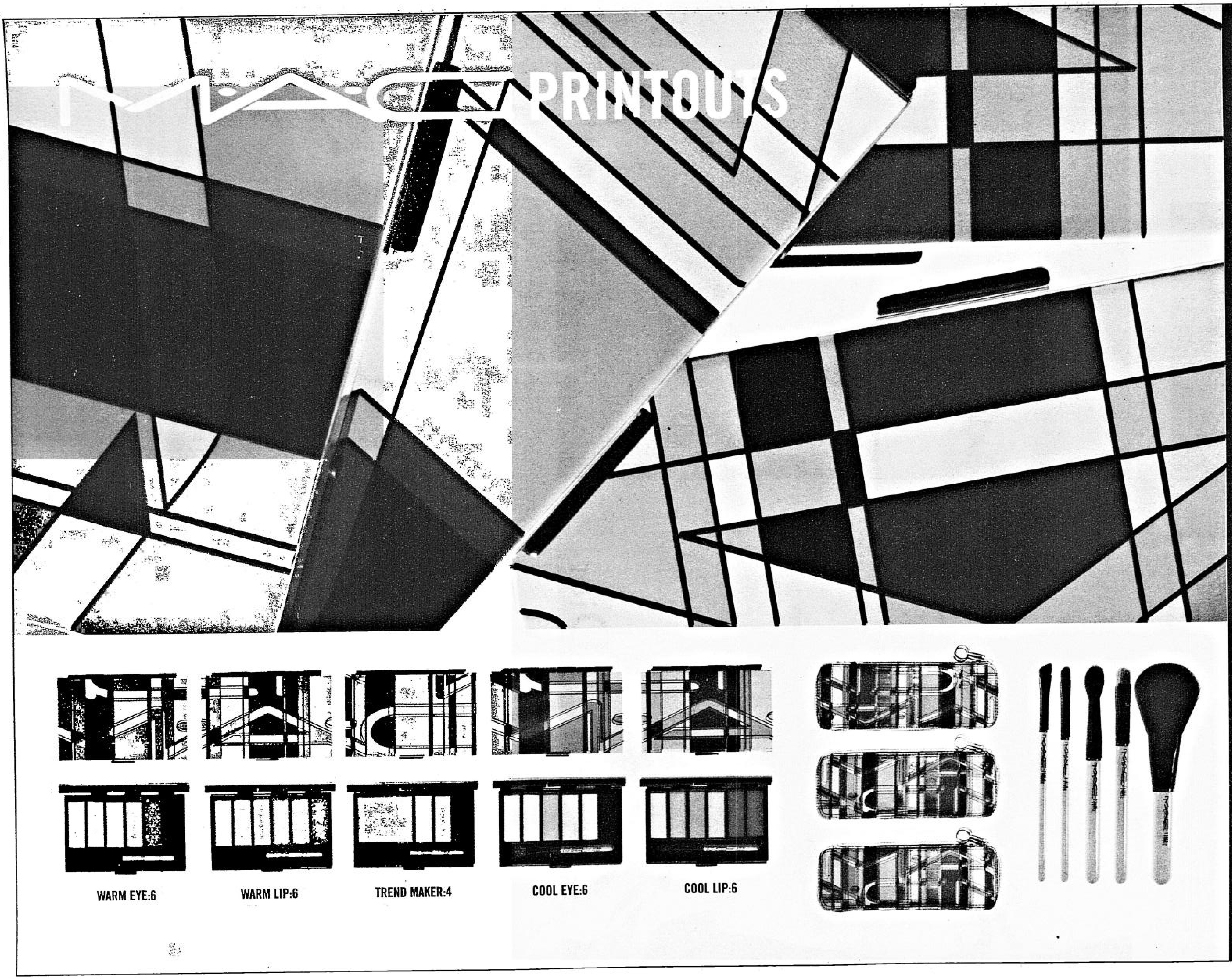
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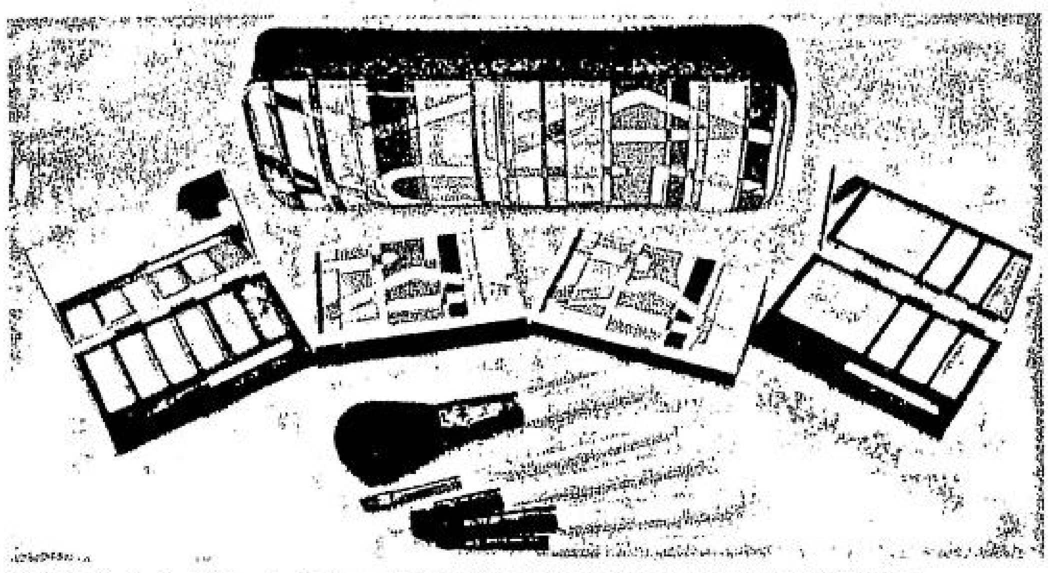
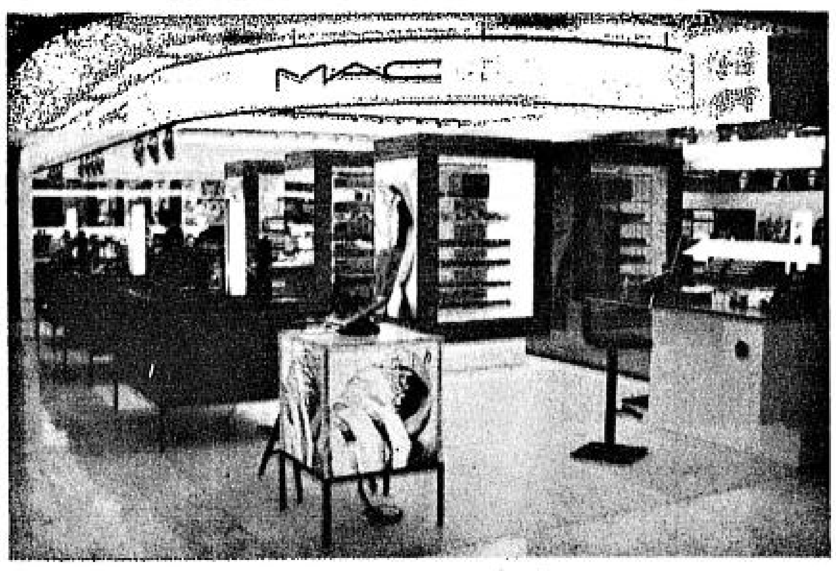
Everyday Hollywood glam

MAC's limited-edition palette collection called Printout Parade is a Pucci print-inspired range of coordinating cool or warm-toned eye and lip compacts

Text by Kinny Salas
Photos by Rudy Esperas



SOME limited-edition steals from MAC: Printout-patterned makeup bags in three colors—lime, rose and turquoise with matching five professional mini brushes. My favorite is the lime set. My color palette of choice: Warm Eyes, Cool Lips and Trend Makers for endless possibilities for eyes, cheeks and lips.

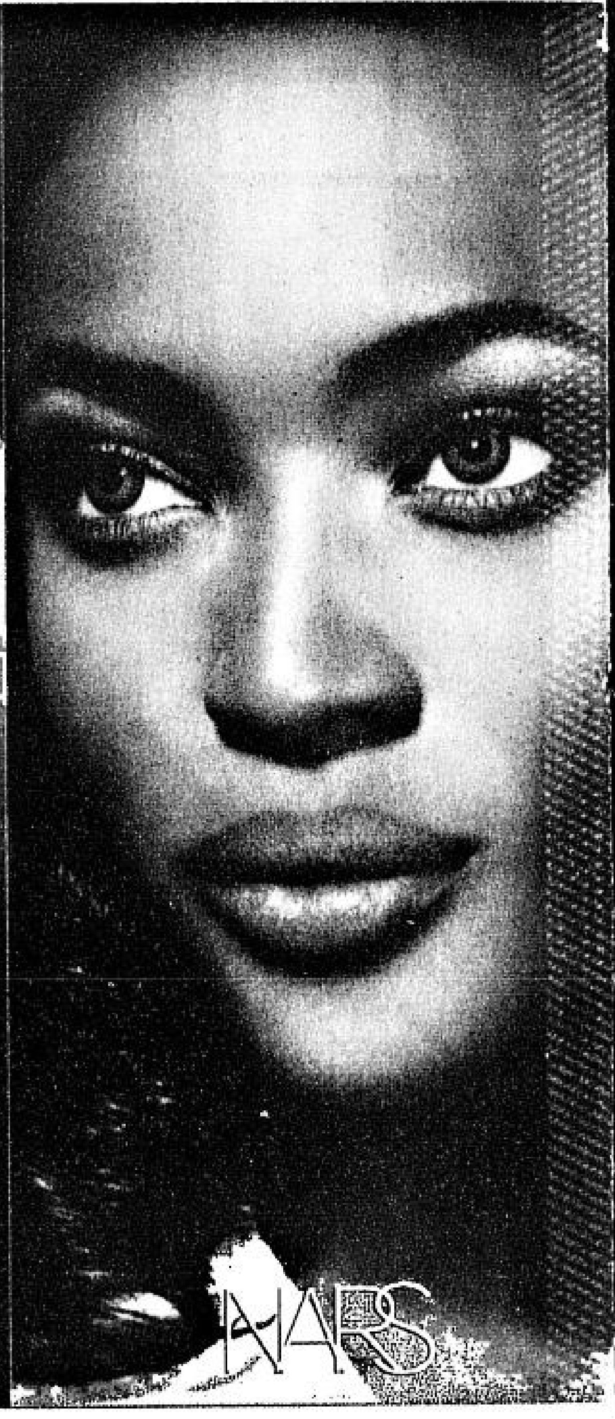


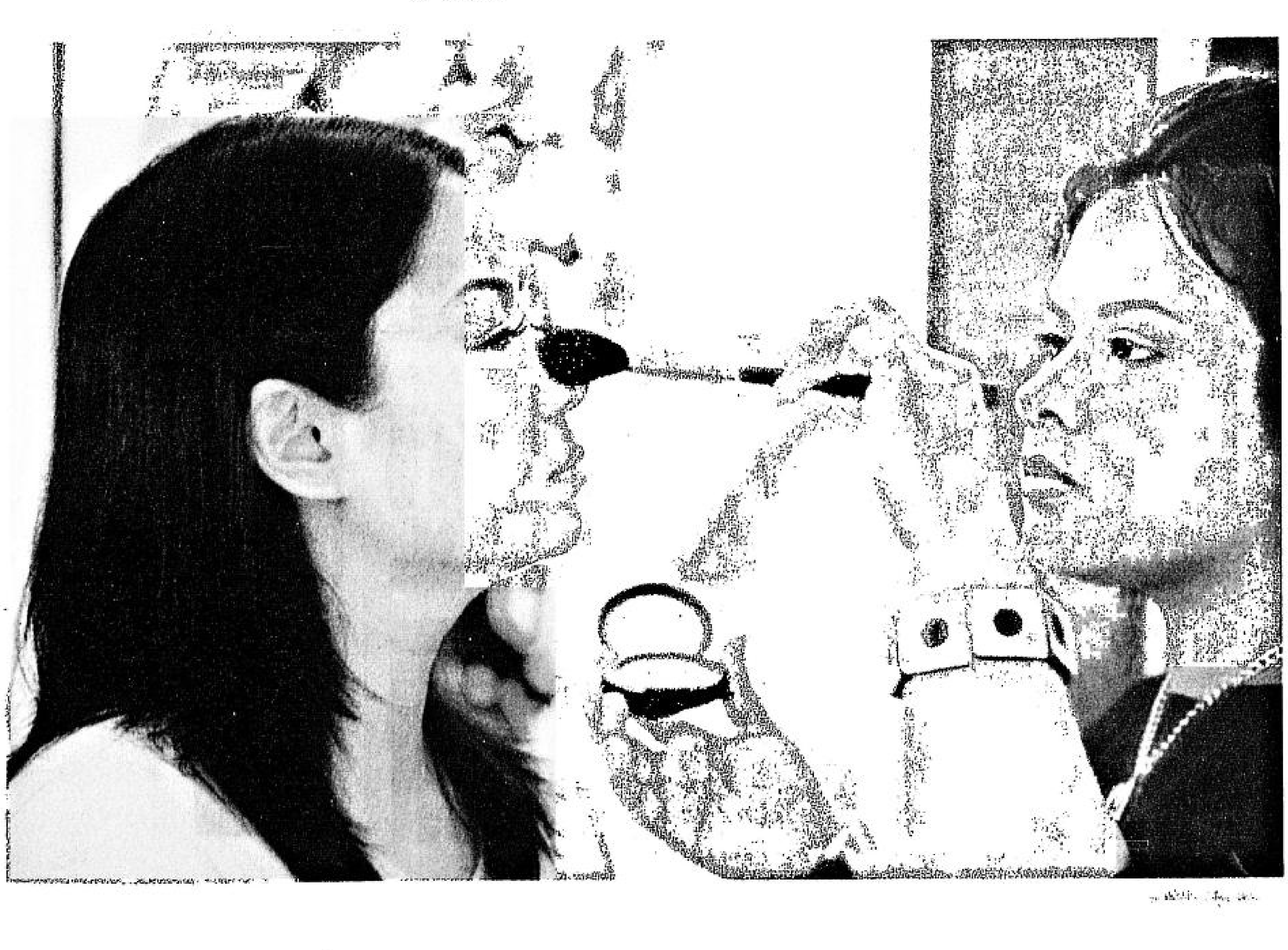
MAKEUP Artists Cosmetics (MAC) is the only truly universal makeup line I know, with products for everyone from socialites to teenagers to ordinary working women.

This year, I volunteered to be the model for their limited-edition palette collection called Printout Parade, a Pucci print-inspired range of coordinating cool or warm-toned eye and lip compacts.

The look we agreed upon is all-out drama and glamour. My MAC makeup artist was Sallie Lim, who was brought to Rustan's Tower from MAC Rustan's Makati for this session. Sallie is one makeup artist who has never failed to recommend the right products for me.

ESTEE LAUDER

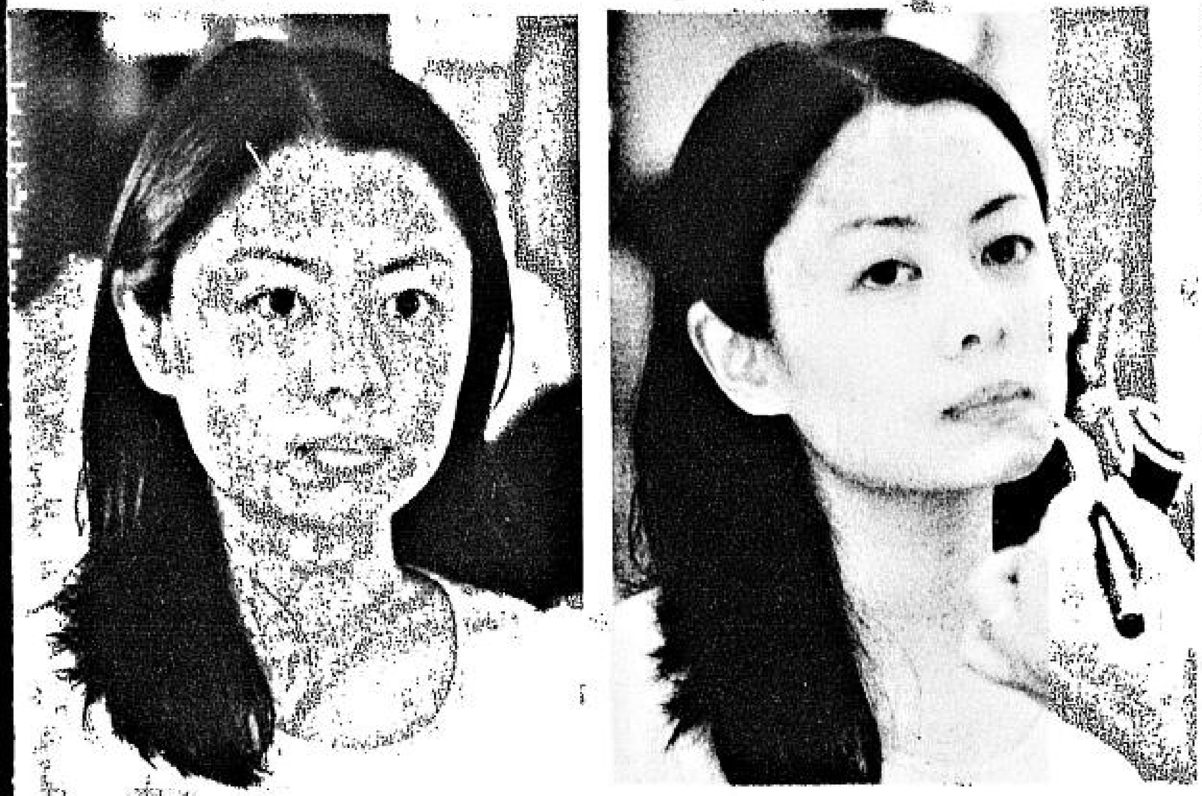




Step 3. cheeks

A peachy beige shade was applied to the apple of my cheeks, with loose powder brushed on to seal the look. My nose was contoured with a light-brown shade at the sides to make it seem narrower, and a thin line of Silverdust right on the middle to give it a more chiseled look.

Silverdust, a pale pink powder with silver shimmer, was incorporated and applied at the inner corner of my eyes as well.



Step 1. skin

On my clean, bare face, Sallie applied Strobe cream, MAC's top-selling primer that gives bare skin radiance nd helps foundation adhere better. Studiotech foundation, a cream-to-powder finish, followed suit. It gives nedium-to-heavy coverage to cover minor imperfections and even-out skin tone.

Blemishes that Studiotech can't handle like pimples, broken capillaries and blotchy areas are camouflaged y the Studio Finish concealer, which usually goes under the eyes and inflamed areas like the sides of the ose and cheeks.

Everything was applied with a foundation brush for an even, professional finish.

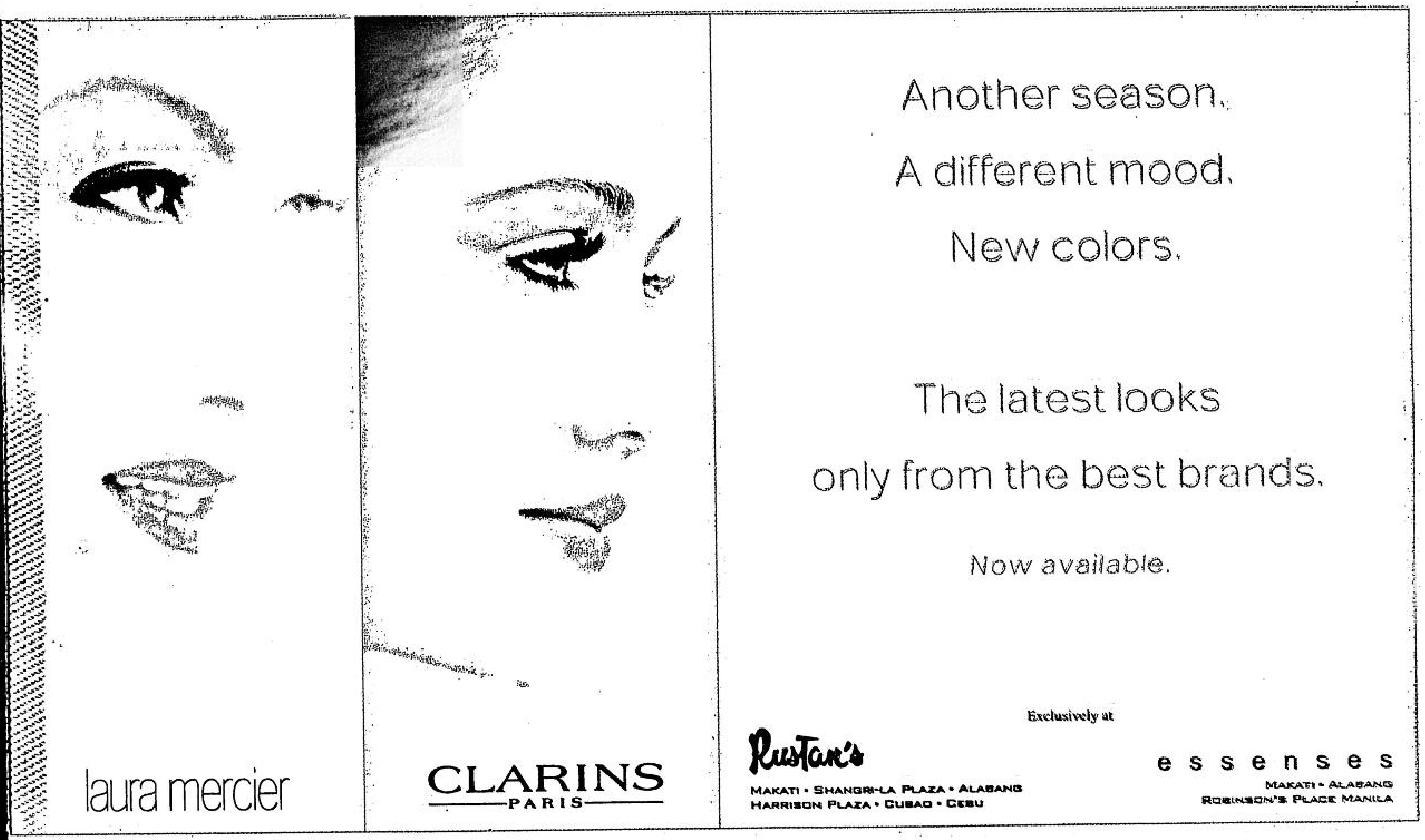
Step 2. eyes

The eyebrows took the longest to shape and fill in. Sallie used a slant-tipped brush and dark-brown powder to turn my brows into glamorous arches.

My colors came from the Warm Eyes palette. The lime-green cream shadow was my main accent, and the rest were used to contour and highlight. Black Kohl eyeliner was applied on the upper and lower lid to frame the eyes. A thin line on the upper lid and a thicker one on the undereye area were applied, topped with more lime eye shadow blended right under them to make both eyes pop.

Sallie curled my eyelashes, then put false eyelashes on top of them. I glanced at the mirror and the sight of my eyes alone brought back memories of old Hollywood glamour. Think Hedy Lamarr, Greta Garbo and Jean Harlow.

Mascara was added to set the curl on the real lashes and add definition per lash.



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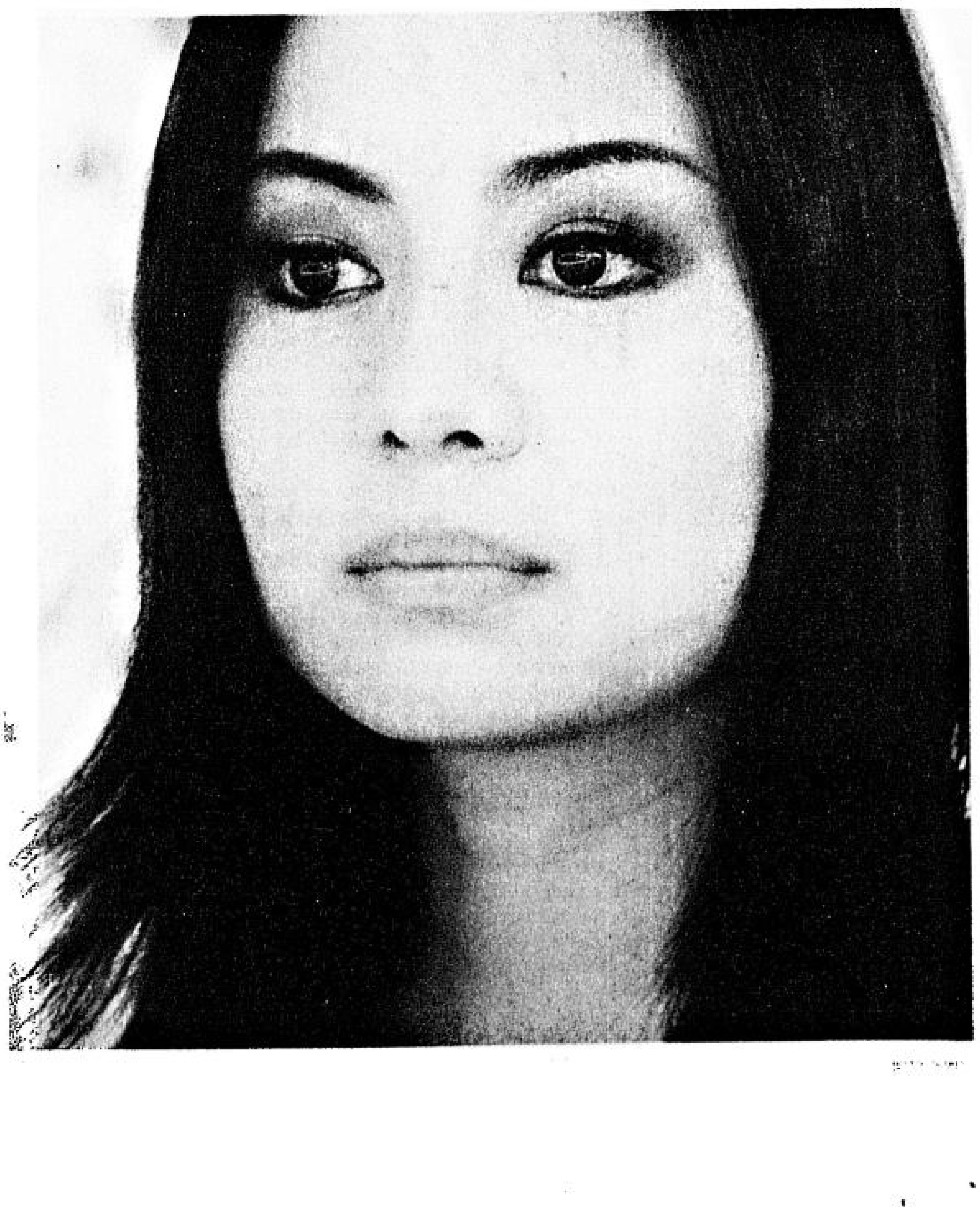
Step 4. lips

My puckers were lined with burgundy lip liner only at the corners, and filled in with the third shade in the Cool Lips palette—a pretty crayon-carnation pink. The center of the lower lip was dabbed lightly with a golden beige all-over cream color from the Trend Maker palette, for a sexy pout effect.



DIOR'S Fall Makeup Collection

NARS' earth- and jewel-toned palette

PHOTOS: ROGER CARPIO

LAURA Mercier's Lady Luxe Collection—richer colors for autumn

Makeup goes serious but enthralling

Cosmetic brands ditch the sunshiny colors for earth tones and expressionist hues

By Cheche V. Moral

LIP bra-lifted" pouts; earth tones with hues of emerald and garnet; soft eyes with richly stained lips; inky peepers with sheer-colored smiles; pale faces with lots of shimmer; lush fabric-mimicking palettes; expressionist faces; sculpted features with demure to frivolous eyes—these are the looks to watch out for as top makeup brands debut their looks for fall.

Taking cue from the dropping temperature, cosmetic companies are stowing the sorbet shades of the summer in favor of warmer autumn palettes. Makeup-junkie favorite Nars, for one, makes a dramatic turnaround as it does away with brights and adopts a more refined look with earthy browns and splashes of olive and purple.

In contrast, Laura Mercier veers from neutrals for darker lip shades. Estée Lauder highlights the eyes and downplays the lips with the barest hint of color.

The Japanese Awake is espousing sexy, pouty lips and provocatively curled eyelashes. French brand Clarins is pushing for a luminous, shimmery face with pink and violet as key hues.

CLARINS' True Emotions collection

ESTÉE Lauder's Pure Color Eyeliner and LipTint, in cute, "inkwell" bottles, and Pure Color Eye Shadow Trio

Dior, meanwhile, creates a face powder that dramatically sculpts and highlights the Asian woman's best features.

Awake

The look: "Sensitively provocative and non-flirtatious sexiness," with focus on the eyes and lips. Created with the working woman in mind, it underscores sensuality with shades that are suited even for the office setting. Lips are sensually full and shiny; eyelashes are coquettishly curled.

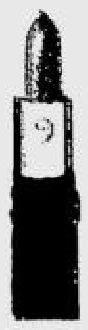
Key products: Awake Stardom Lip Lift, the so-called "lip bra," which is a high-shine collagen-formulated lipstick that lifts lips into a full, sexy pout. It comes in two varieties, Pure Creamy and Sheer Glossy, with eight shades each (P1,150/tube). The Stardom Escalate Lash Mascara (P1,650) has superfine bristles that are said to coat each strand in a "domino effect" and lifts the eyelashes into a flirtatious curl without the aid of a curler—best for women with short, straight eyelashes, like the Japanese.

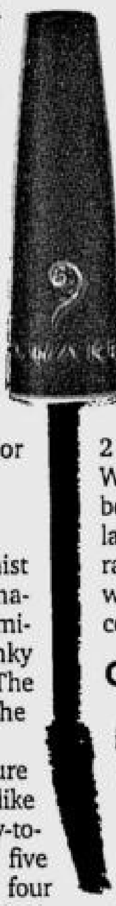
Nars

The look: Refined and uptown-sophisticated, with a subtle, earthy palette. Rich brown is spiced up with the addition of jewel tones like garnet and emerald. It's ecru, emerald and aubergine for the eyes, and spiced neutrals for the lips.

Key products: The Earth Angel Duo Eye Shadow (P1,750), a bronzed taupe and olive combo; the Barbuda Single Eye Shadow (P1,150), an amethyst shade; the nutmeg-hued Pampa Lip Stain Gloss and the metallic garnet Dirty Shame Lip Gloss (P1,350 each).

Incidentally, Nars will hold a sale of its spring collection on Sept. 10-12 at the Rustan's Makati Boardroom. Items will be sold at 15-percent off, with a special gift for every P1,950 purchase.




FULL lips and shadow-casting eyelashes, with Awake Stardom Lip Lift (right) and Stardom Escalate Lash Mascara (left)

Laura Mercier

The look: The brand that has been known for its neutral palette goes bold as it highlights the lips in darker and richer shades, and shifts attention from the eyes with softer and sheerer hues. Fall's Lady Luxe Collection takes inspiration from lush fabrics like cashmere and chiffon.

Key products: Black Ebony eyeliner on the lash line for depth, Blue Suede Eye Colour across the lids and Cashmere on the brow bone. Sable is brushed underneath for intensity, highlighted with Pearl and finished off with a sweep of black mascara. The lips call for Plum Berry Long Wear Lip Pencil and Garnet Lip Colour. Riviera Crème Cheek Color lends a hint of blush.

Estée Lauder

The look: Inspired by the Expressionist movement, colors are intensified to emphasize expression and emotion. It gives prominence to the eyes with the strong, inky shades of ebony, mahogany, indigo. The cheeks are lightly stained. Ditto with the lips in sheer watercolor hues.

Key products: The limited-edition Pure Color Eyeliner and LipTint, packaged like fountain-pen inkwells, with ultra-thin easy-to-use applicators. The eyeliner comes in five shades, at P1,380 each. The lip tint, in four shades, is P980 each. The Pure Color Eye Shadow Trios comes in three shades, at P1,600 each.

Dior

The look: "Sculpted" complexion with naturally shimmery or intensely iridescent made-up eyes.

Key products: Diorskin Perfect-Fit Compact (P2,220), which is specifically designed for Asians. In eight shades, it has a light-reflecting complex that "sculpts" the Asian complexion. It is said to capture and re-diffuse light to highlight the contours of the face. The red pigments of the powder deepens and structures; the blues even its relief; and the yellows brighten complexion. It has SPF 20. The 2 Couleurs Shadow and Light Duo Ready to Wear Wet & Dry (P1,500; in eight color combos) is two-color eye makeup (one modulates, the other magnifies) that lends a natural look when applied dry. With just a drop of water, the effect deepens into more dramatic color.

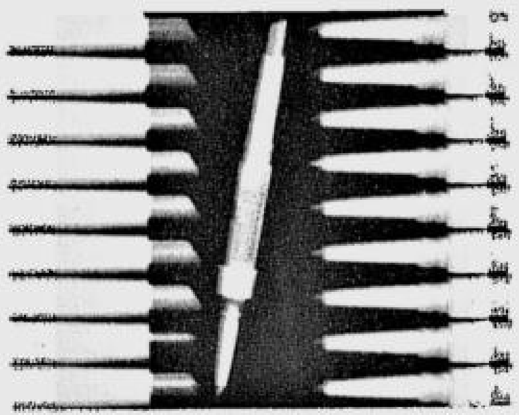
Clarins

The look: Called True Emotions, the look is decidedly pale, with lots of sparkly shimmer. The key hues are pink and violet.

Key products: The face is kept pale with just a hint of shimmer with the application of True Radiance Foundation. The lipstick, Le Rouge Sheer Lipstick, in two shades, has an almost transparent color with an equally shimmery finish. The other variant is called Le Rouge Pearl Shimmer Lipstick and comes in four shades.

For the eyes, there's the Colour Quartet for Eyes 02, a combination of three pink shades and gold. Its nail colors, in pale pinks, mimic the makeup with its gold reflects.

CALYPSO Mimosa eau de toilette and candle
ROGER CARPIO


ESTÉE Lauder Mikado Artist's Mechanical Lip Pencils

Scents and sensations

Flutter those lashes and beam your fairest as Rustan's Essenses launches new treats from Estée Lauder, Sekkisei and Calypso

By Cheche V. Moral

BEAUTY junkies out there, pucker your lippies, flutter those lashes and beam your fairest as Rustan's Essenses launches new products this season to add to your already colorful booty.

Estée Lauder hopes to solve another of women's many makeup dilemmas with the introduction of its **Mikado** line. Named after the Japanese makeup artist who developed the products, associate brand manager Gladys Gonzales says the innovative two-in-one artist pencils will do away with mismatched lip liners and lipsticks, and eyeliners and eye shadows.

The nifty Artist's Mechanical Lip Pencils and Artist's Mechanical Eye Pencils are double-ended and color-coordinated sticks you can easily slip into your bags, so say bye-bye to bulky *kikay* bags on your way out.

The former is a lip liner on one end with a matching lip color on the opposite end, and comes in eight shades. The latter, which comes in six waterproof shades, is an eyeliner and a cream-formula eye shadow duo. The ergonomically designed sticks are retractable, and priced at P1,350 each.

Rounding up the Mikado line is the Artist's Perfect Brows, a combo of self-sharpening, ultra-thin brow filler and brow brush. It comes in three shades, and costs P1,350.

SEKKISEI'S Seikisho Cleansing Oil

清
肌
晶
SEIKISHO
CLEANSING OIL
KOSÉ

Sensual Sekkisei

Japanese all-botanicals brand **Sekkisei** introduces the sibling of its popular black soap, the **Seikisho Cleansing Oil** (P945/185 ml).

While many may feel icky cleansing their face with oil, brand manager Rieko Ishizawa claims the gel-like oil cleanser is actually as effective as other forms, and it rinses easily. It is said to be gentle for all skin types, and leaves a film of moisture on the skin.

"You see, even oily skin needs to be moisturized," she explains.

Seikisho Cleansing Oil combines Japanese and Chinese herbal oils and botanicals that are said to be effective in removing the rough layer that contains melanin, heavy makeup and blackheads.

AWAKE'S Platinum Care whitening line—S.R. White Serum, Advanced Lotion and Advanced Cream

It has Job's Tears Seed Oil, for a translucent complexion; Peach Seed Oil to minimize appearance of pores; Safflower Oil to clear clogged pores; and Oil-soluble Licorice that lightens dullness and pigmentation.

Skin renovation series

Awake, the same company that makes Sekkisei, has added three new premium products to its skin whitening line, the **Platinum Care Skin Renovation Series**. The Awake approach is to combat the effects of both internal and external factors that contribute to skin pigmentation, dulling and premature aging.

Ishizawa explains the S.R. White Serum aims to alter the effects of internal stress caused by emotional problems.

"You have to understand that stress contributes to melanin production, which causes skin discolorations," she says. The serum contains antioxidants and extracts that activate production of new cells and remove existing melanin. A Vitamin C-rich ingredient called acerola extract is said to lighten melanin.

The S.R. White Advanced Lotion is the line's moisturizer, responsible for enhancing the skin's ability to absorb and retain moisture. Applied after the serum, the lotion also has extracts that are said to control melanin.

Complementing the two is the S.R. White Advanced Cream. Used at night, it's a medicated whitener for serious melanin problems caused by external factors like pollution and sun exposure.

Awake's Platinum Care is the brand's most expensive line, according to Ishizawa. The serum is P4,750/40 g; the lotion P3,950/120 ml; and the cream P5,550/30 g. Intended for women age 30 and over, it's reputedly the most effective, and created by what Ishizawa calls the No. 1 whitening brand in Asia.

Fragrance booty

From the apparel brand Calypso comes a fragrance line with matching soaps and candles. First introduced in 1995, **Calypso by Christiane Celle**'s delicate signature scent is mimosa-based, owing to the roots of the brand's progenitor. Christiane Celle was raised in Cannes, France, where there's an abundance of mimosa.

Now in nine variants, the fragrance line aims to translate the playfulness of beach life (a paean to Celle's childhood in the French Riviera and holidays in St. Barth's) to the chic, cosmopolitan lifestyle (a nod to Celle's current homes in New York City and the Hamptons).

Vacation in bottles

By Pam Pastor

ONE whiff takes you places. To faraway islands with swaying coconut trees, to seashores with tiny fish swimming in the clear water, to resorts where you can down one umbrella-adorned drink after another, to the exotic destinations of your wildest dreams.

The brilliant minds behind Comptoir Sud Pacifique have mastered the art of creating magic for your olfactory nerves. No wonder high-profile women like Nicole Kidman, Juliette Binoche and Britney Spears have fallen in love with their scents.

Eaux De Voyage, their new perfume line, plays with the concept of year-round holidays, exoticism, sunshine and escape.

There are a total of nine different fragrances under six olfactory families—Vanilla Island ("vanilla enhanced with fruity, floral and amber scents—a warm invitation to tenderness and pleasure"), Equatorial Forest ("the successful combination of power and delicacy"), Tropical Garden ("an armful of delicate flowers with warm overtones"), Exotic Orchard ("when playful wild fruit awaken unusual scents"), The Way of Spices ("the suave and languorous harmony of spices and oriental scents") and Sun Waters ("vivifying maritime or citrus overtones elate the senses").

Each scent is a seduction, an adventure, an experience.

There are two fragrances under Vanilla Island. Vanille Passion is sensual and warm. Vanille Abricot is sweet and velvety.

Bois De Filao, which falls under Equatorial Forest, combines the scents of patchouly, filao wood, amber and white musk with the smells of lemon, bergamot, papyrus, baie rose and violette leaf.

Aloha Tiare, from the Tropical Garden family, is floral, exotic and intoxicating. Coeur De Vahne brings together the delightful scents of sandalwood and vanilla with bergamot, orange, peach, passion fruit, cinnamon, rose-jasmine and opuhi flower from Tahiti.

Exotic Orchard's Mora Bella is light, floral and fruity. It is a union of pomegranate, bergamot, lemon, raspberry, blackberry, jasmine, sandalwood and musk.

Amour De Cacao, which is from The Way of Spices, is rich and delicious. The mixture of cacao and vanilla produces a yummy chocolate scent.

There are two scents under Sun Waters—Aqua Motu and O Pomelo. Aqua Motu is as light as a breeze and carries your senses to the ocean. Thanks to the combination of pomelo, grapefruit and white musk, O Pomelo bursts with a juicy fruity scent that can last the whole day.

These scents, which come in 100-ml and 150-ml bottles, only became available at Essenses in late August.

As if the fragrances aren't enough to make your olfactory nerves happy, Comptoir Sud Pacifique also offers beautiful candles in different scents to keep your interiors smelling good.

If you are desperate for a break but you can't get away from your hectic urban life, the answer lies in these bottles and candles.

Vanille Passion, Vanille Abricot, Bois De Filao, Aloha Tiare, Coeur De Vahne, Mora Bella, Amour De Cacao, Aqua Motu and O Pomelo.

Those are the scents of escape.

Comptoir Sud Pacifique is available exclusively at Rustan's Essenses Makati.

E-mail the author at ppastor@inquirer.com.ph

BURNING PARADISE. These candles can take you to exotic destinations

INSTANT ESCAPE. One spray is all it takes.

Poker

From page I1

balm on wet hair before blow-drying can give you more control over your tresses.

If straight hair isn't your thing, the rest of Stafford's range has other benefits to offer.

As the name suggests, his Colour Love line is for people with colored hair. Colour Love Shampoo and Conditioner make sure your hair stays in tip-top shape despite the salon treatments you like indulging in. People with dry and damaged hair may also use these products for vibrancy.

Double Blow, Stafford's flexible mousse, is dual-purpose. Use it once for moderate volume. If you want crazy, big hair, use it twice. The bonus? It doesn't get sticky or hard.

Full On is the line for people who need volume. The Shampoo and Leave-In Conditioner can help limp hair achieve fullness and bounce.

All messed up

If you like tousled, unkempt, I-tumbled-out-of-bed-looking-like-this hair, Messed Up is your line. You've got two options—Messed Up Spray Wax, which allows you to style your hair and leaves it glossy, and Messed Up Putty For A Choppy Number, which you rub in your hands before massaging into your hair.

Shine Head is for people who want more slick and shine. And there are two ways to go about it. Shine Head Spray Shine and Shine Head Jelly To Give Shiny Hair can help you produce a wet look or transform yourself into a beach babe.

Hold Tight is a firm hold spray that keeps your hairdo in place without making it as stiff as a board.

Believe it or not, there's also clay for your hair. As Rough As You Like is a clay-based product that would give you complete control over your hair, no matter what length. Working this product vigorously through your hair will give it texture and definition.

Because no two people have the exact same haircare needs, this range gives you the freedom to choose which of these products work the best for you, so you can use them together.

At P345 to P395 per product, there's no doubt that a lot of people would indulge in experimenting with their hair. It doesn't hurt that the products smell really good, too.

And since most of us can only dream of having Stafford's hands working on our hair, his new range is the next best thing.

Lee Stafford Haircare products are available exclusively at Rustan's Essenses Makati.

E-mail the author at ppastor@inquirer.com.ph.

lee stafford
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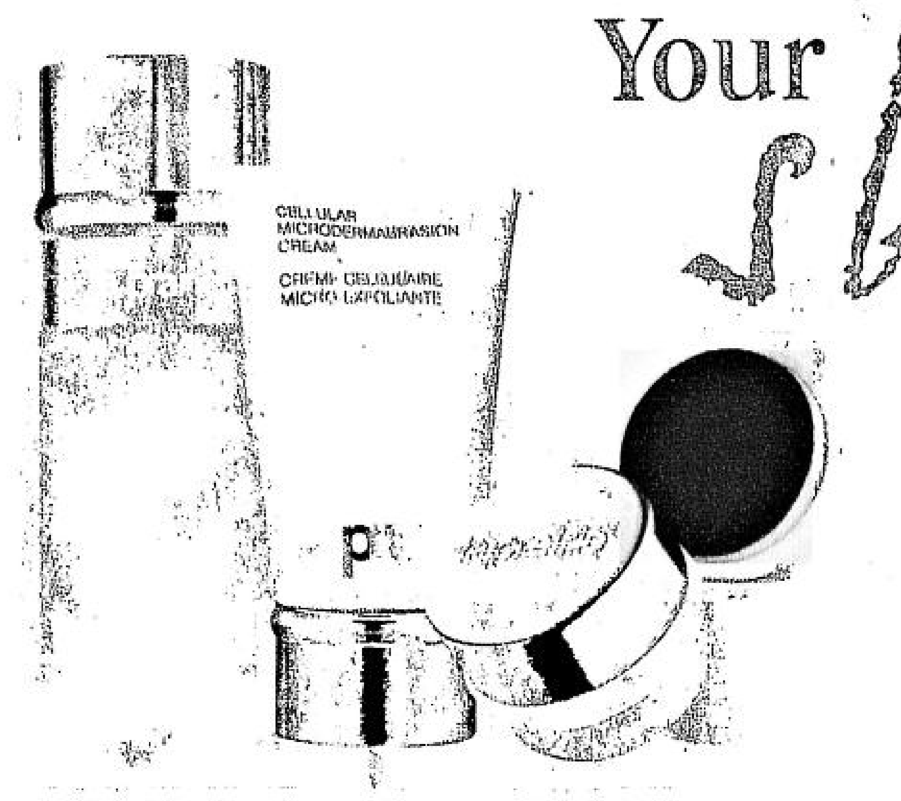
Your skin's best friends

Aging and stress can be checked through skincare science

By Rowena C. Burgos



LA Prairie's Cellular Microdermabrasion Cream and Cellular Softening and Balancing Lotion come with three specialized sponge applicators.

ESTĒE LAUDER
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Idealist
Skin
Refinisher
Soin perfecteur
lissant

ESTEE Lauder's Idealist Micro-D (top left) and Idealist Skin Refinisher

THEY say age brings wisdom, and that's okay. But it also brings about telltale signs of aging on the face. Happily, skincare companies such as Dermalogica, Estée Lauder, La Prairie and Prescriptives have lined up an assortment of products that restore the skin's texture, reduce lines and even prevent the onslaught of new ones. They have tapped into the growing home microdermabrasion trend. And they are targeting consumers who want the benefits of doctor-administered dermabrasion minus the time spent in the dermatologist's clinic.

Microdermabrasion is a treatment where dead skin cells are removed with tiny silicon or aluminum-oxide crystals blown against the skin, then sucked up with a small vacuum. With the new at-home exfoliation alternatives by skincare brands, one will get similar results (smoother, more even-toned skin) within about four weeks.

Nicole Syyap, 22, Dermalogica brand assistant, has been using the brand's Daily Microfoliant, Skin Prep Scrub, Gentle Cream Exfoliant and Skin Renewal Booster for three months now. These, she says, have helped her achieve glowing and supple skin. "These products are very gentle that one can use them daily. Before, I really had bad skin. But when I started using Dermalogica, it has done wonders for me. I bring them wherever I go."

Daily Microfoliant is a rice-based enzyme powder which microfoliates dulling debris. Its skin-brightening complex balances uneven skin pigmentation while the active agents from rice bran and rice extracts help regulate melanin production and microfoliate dead cells.

Skin Prep Scrub's natural corn cob meal and soothing botanicals polish away dead skin cells without overstimulating the skin.

Gentle Cream Exfoliant is a multi-part complex of lactic acid, salicylic acid, sulfur and fruit enzymes, which detach dead skin debris and promote cell renewal.

Skin Renewal Booster is a blend of hydroxy acids and natural humectants for increased cell renewal and healthier-looking skin.

Award-winning

On the other hand, Estée Lauder's award-winning Idealist Micro-D and Idealist Skin Refinisher deliver skin resurfacing benefits with their TripleSphere Refinishing System. The brands also offer deep, thermal action that warms skin to help open, detoxify and minimize pores.

"In an instant, you'll feel it's kinda warm. It's what we call deep thermal action. It wakes up lazy cells to hasten skin peeling and renewal," says Gladys Gonzales, Estée Lauder and Prescriptives assistant brand manager. "The products' non-acid formula takes care of skin's problems like pores, flakiness, redness and fine lines. They don't clash with other products that you use and even complement your existing skincare regimen."

YOUR SKIN'S/2

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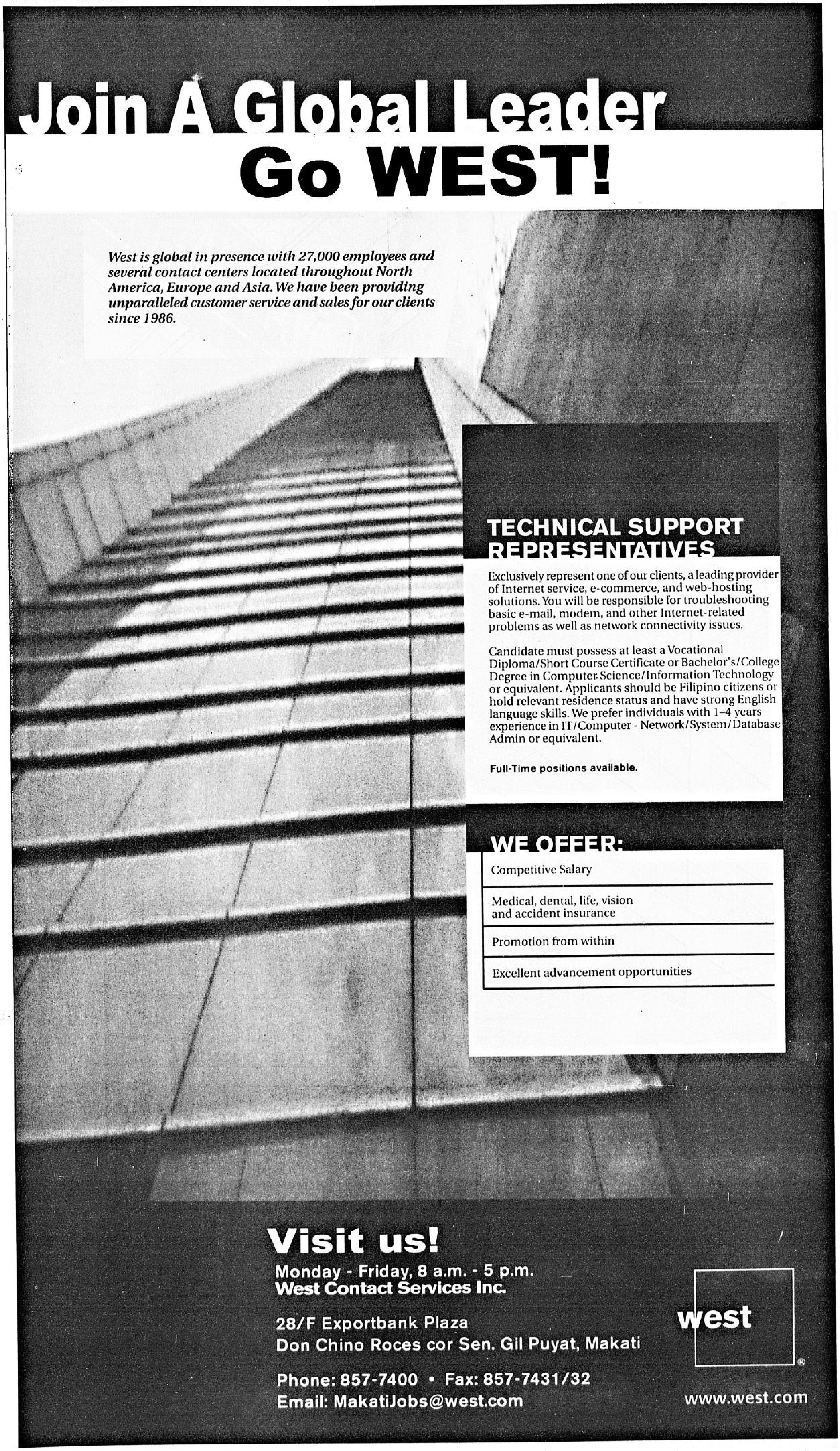

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- Preferably graduate of any medical related courses;
- Pleasing personality with good written & oral communication skills; computer literate;
- Work experience in HMO is an advantage.

Clinic Nurse

- Pleasing personality with good customer service orientation;
- Work experience in HMO is an advantage.

Accountants

- Work experience in HMO / General Accounting;
- Accounting graduate

Underwriting Clerk

- Work experience in HMO;
- Experience in HMO underwriting and handling ID printing machines.

Claims Clerk
Claims Processor

- Graduate of any 4 year medical related courses;
- Computer literate; willing to work in shifts;
- Work experience in HMO is an advantage.

Claims Supervisor

- Graduate of any 4 year medical related courses;
- With at least 2 years experience in HMO / Insurance claims setting;
- Good customer service orientation and oral / written communication skills; computer literate.

Retainer Physicians

- Graduate of Internal Medicine or Family Medicine Residency Program;
- Pleasing personality with good oral / written communication.

Disbursement Clerk

- Work experience in HMO;
- Knowledge in hospital bill payments / Philhealth benefits

A competitive compensation package and opportunities for professional development await successful applicants.

This is an urgent requirement. Please send your application and resumés to the indicated address on or before September 11, 2004.

7th Floor, EU State Tower, 30 Quezon Avenue, Quezon City
or thru: statetower2004@yahoo.com
Tel. No.: 781-9682

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www.contactpoint.bz email: jobs_cp@pacific.net.ph Fax: 910-5182 loc. 5053

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- Operations Supervisors
- Service Quality Officers
- Training Specialist
- Recruitment Specialist
- Senior Developer

VSO

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Changing lives

Volunteer allowance...
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Incredible challenges...
Return home with improved skills and wonderful memories to last you a lifetime!

VSO does not work by sending equipment, medical supplies or aid. **We send skilled people**. These VSO volunteers live and work at the heart of communities in **Africa, Asia, the Balkans, the Caribbean** and **the Pacific**, exchanging ideas with the local people in order to help them to help themselves.

VSO volunteers share their professional skills and experience with local communities and partners, helping them to set up and run projects that will benefit their own communities. Once these projects are up and running, local people can keep them going when the volunteers who helped to start them return home. Many VSO Returned Volunteers say they come home with improved skills in areas such as team building, problem solving, the ability to cope with difficult situations, and strategic thinking.

VSO recognizes the power of individuals driven by their commitment to make a difference wherever they are. Through **VSO Bahaginan**, its recruitment base in the Philippines, VSO offers a unique opportunity for Filipino professionals to share their skills with some of the world's poorest people in other developing countries.

If you're from **25 to 65 years old with at least 3 years of professional experience in Business & Management, Community & Social Development, Health, and Technical & Natural Resources**, VSO Bahaginan can set you on course to one of the most rewarding experiences of your life.

Interested volunteer applicants may request for a VSO application form via email at **bahaginan@vsoint.org** or through postmail by writing to:

The Director
VSO Bahaginan
Unit 505, Pacific Corporate Center
131 West Avenue, Quezon City 1105

VSO provide volunteers with a comprehensive package of training and support that includes **pre-departure and in-country trainings, return airfare, health insurance and vaccinations, accommodation, a modest living allowance and a small end-of-service grant.**

VSO Bahaginan is not just about working overseas in another country. We also **support national volunteering by building partnerships** to strengthen and build the capacities of local volunteer organizations. If the time is not right for you to volunteer, you can still help us build a fairer world. We also need people who are prepared to **support us through donations, or by taking part in fundraising and awareness-raising activities**, to help us in our work.

VSO or **Voluntary Service Overseas** is an international development organization that works through, *and with*, volunteers, sending them to more than 30 countries in the developing world. It promotes volunteering by bringing people together to share skills, creativity and learning to build a fairer world.

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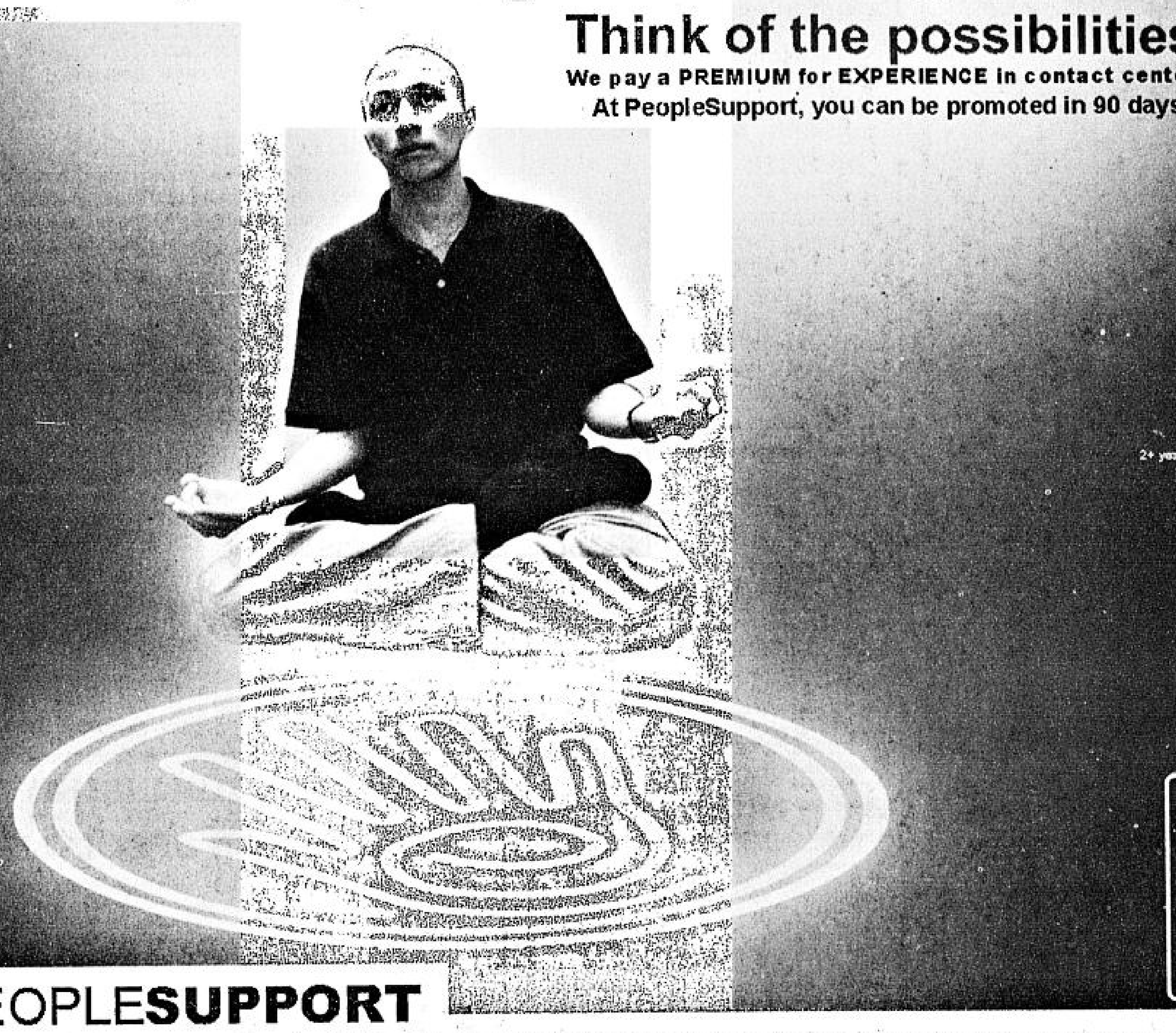

Our recruitment team is coming to
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Excellent English communication skills required.

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Financial Team Supervisor
2+ years experience in Sales environment within the financial services/lending sector.

Financial Team Manager
5+ years experience in financial services or mortgage banking.

Financial Trainer
1+ years training experience on financial services/lending sector.

Communication Trainer
2+ years related experience

Reporting Analyst
1+ years of customer satisfaction-focused support experience

Compensation Officer
2+ years of work experience in Compensation and Benefits

Implementation Manager and System Architect

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Responsible for locating and contacting debtors of STC Solutions' US clients.
Bring your resume to 25F ExportBank Plaza,
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29-33F Robinsons Summit Center, 6783 Ayala Avenue, Makati City 1200
21 & 25F Export Bank Plaza, Sen Gil Puyat corner Chino Roces Avenue, Makati City 1200
Cebu: e-Office One and Two Asia Town IT Park, Apas, Lahug, Cebu City 6000

Telephone Numbers:

	Makati		Cebu
HR:	02 755 2600	HR:	032 234 8247
DL:	02 885 8000	DL:	032 234 8200
FAX:	02 885.8097	FAX:	032.234.8299

PHOENIX LAND

8TH Floor, Makati Executive Center
Leviste corner Rufino St., Salcedo Village, Makati City
Tel. Nos. 830-0575/812-8490; Fax: 812-8631

PHOENIX LAND, INC., is a premier real estate company engaged in developing high-end residential and resort projects. Our flagship projects is Las Haciendas Resort Farms, an exciting 342-hectare resort-farm project in Laurel, Batangas facing the scenic Taal lake and Volcano.

We are in need of the following:

SALES MANAGERS

- At least 2 years experience as Sales Manager in real estate or related fields
- Must have sold properties worth P1.5-3.0 million
- Must possess excellent leadership and management skills
- Must be results oriented and able to formulate and execute marketing strategies

PROPERTY CONSULTANTS

- Must have excellent communication and interpersonal skills
- With sound business sense and passion for financial
- College degree education with good scholastic records
- Self-motivated and highly competitive with a strong desire to excel
- Experience in Real Estate sales is an advantage

ACOUNTING ASSISTANT

- Female, between 23 to 28 years old
- Must be a graduate of BS Accountancy
- With at least 2 years relevant experience
- Self-driven and can work with minimum supervision
- Well-organized and conscientious with details
- Excellent oral and written communication skills

ACCOUNTANT

- Male or Female, between 23 to 35 years old
- Must be a graduate of BS Accountancy from a reputable school, preferably CPA
- With at least 3 years relevant experience in bookkeeping and financial reports preparation from a real estate company
- Self-driven and can work with minimum supervision
- Well-organized and conscientious with details
- With excellent oral and written communication skills
- Knowledgeable with reportorial requirements of BIR, SEC, SSS, HDMF and other local govt. agencies

SALES ADMIN AND DOCUMENTATION OFFICER

- Between 24-30 years old, Female
- Business course graduate with at least 2 years experience in documentation work and background from a real estate development firm
- Well-organized and conscientious with regards to details
- Customer-oriented and with strong interpersonal skills
- With excellent oral and written communication skills

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→ finished at the upper 10% of his or her batch
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→ has a strong interest in Psychological Testing & Evaluation and Sales
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Contact persons:
Dess or Christabel
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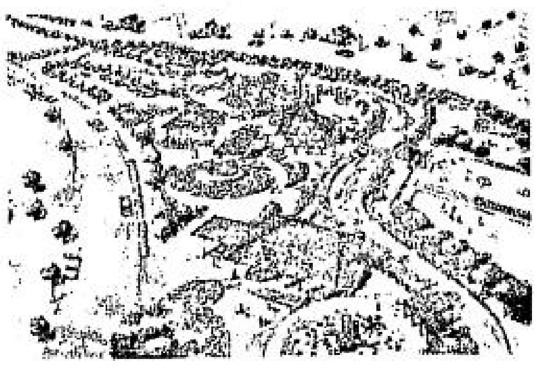

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Marketing Services Manager

- Management or marketing course graduate
- With at least 5 years experience in advertising, promotions and market research
- MBA and experience in real estate, an advantage

Project Development Officer

- Management graduate with strong background in marketing & finance
- With at least 2 years experience in project or brand management
- MBA and experience in real estate, an advantage

Project Architect

- BS Architecture graduate
- Licensed Architect
- With at least 5 years experience in project design and technical planning

Project Engineer

- BS Civil Engineering graduate
- Licensed Civil Engineer
- With a minimum of 5 years experience in project and construction management

Interested applicants may submit their resume and transcript of records at the 3/F Tower One Ayala Triangle, Ayala Avenue, Makati City or e-mail to: tandocfrance.cii@ayalaland.com.ph

NOTICE OF JOB VACANCY

Vacancy No. 2004-11
Date issued: 2 Sep. 2004
Closing date: 8 Sep. 2004

Post Title : **Telecommunication Associate – UN Field Security Coordination Office**
Entry Level : ICS 6
Office and Location : Office of the UN Field Security Coordination Office
UNDP Philippines Manila
Type of Appointment : Fixed Term
Duration : One Year Appointment

Duties and Responsibilities:

The Telecommunication Associate(TA) works under the supervision of the UN Field Security Coordination Officer (FSCO) or, in his absence, the UN Field Security Coordination Assistant (FSCA) for the Philippines.

She/he will be responsible for the Maintenance the UN-inter agency ECS including

- Planning and technical maintenances of the UN inter agency Radio Room
- Planning of VHF repeater/HF antennas and technical maintenance of these installations;
- Technical checks and quick repairs of radios, repeaters, backup power systems, antennas, and other radio support equipments.
- Technical Supervision of inter agency contractors for radio-telecommunications
- Vetting and training of UN Radio Operators both inter agency and agency
- Radio training of UN-staff and UN-drivers
- Radio Propagation test for the future coverage expansion of the existing UN- ECS network.

The TA advises thr. UN agencies/funds/programs on telecommunications related matters including

- Recommendations on inter-agency radio-telecom equipment purchases (UHF/VHF/HF/Satellite phone) and software according to MOSS
- Recommendations on radio procedures and policies
- Procurement of radio-telecom hard-and software and other equipment
- Contracting of services related to radio-communications

Liaising with government authorities in telecom-issues including

- Licensing of Radio stations including the preparation of related documents
- Licensing of frequencies including the preparation of related documents
- Enhancement of the UN ECS

Qualification:

- University Degree in telecommunications or related field with at least 5 years progressive experience or at least 10 years experience in the field of radio-communications (VHF, HF)
- At least five years experience in radio-telecommunications project management, including HF and VHF communications. Good knowledge of Motorola VHF and CODAN HF radio-telecom hard and software.
- Experience with the UN or another international organization is a strong asset;
- Radio Operator's Licence according to the Revised Amateur Radio Regulation (Ministry Circular No. 87174).
- Police and NBI clearance;
- Full working knowledge of English language;
- Advanced computer skills (MS Office);
- Ability and willingness to travel within the entire natl. territory of the Philippines and to work overtime and weekends in case of emergency;
- Initiative and sound judgement. Ability to supervise contractors' works and to work independently;
- Dedication to the United Nations principles and demonstrated ability to work in harmony with persons of different national and cultural background;
- Personal commitment to peace and reconciliation;

Important note:

The assignment may include field work for emergency interventions under harsh conditions, high physical stress or personal danger! The United Nations Organization strongly encourages applications from qualified female candidates. The UN-offices in the Philippines are a non-smoking environment.
The selected candidate will receive a salary depending on his/her background and work experience.

Applicants are requested to complete the UN Personal History Form(P.11), available in our website www.undp.org.ph/jobs and send to:

Human Resources Unit
United Nations Development Programme
7th Floor NEDA sa Makati Bldg.
106 Amorsolo St., Legaspi Village
Makati City

Indicating the Vacancy No. and Post Title on or before 8 September 2004. Kindly note that only completed P.11 forms will be reviewed.

UNDP is an equal opportunity employer and invites Filipino nationals to apply for the post.

Please note that we will contact only the short-listed candidates.

Australian Government
AusAID

The Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID) is responsible for the delivery of Australia's Development Cooperation Program to the Philippines. AusAID is now seeking the services of a Filipino citizen to fill the position of:

SENIOR PROGRAM OFFICER - DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

Applicants should provide a two to three-page written application addressing the following key selection criteria:

- Well developed understanding of development issues and in-depth knowledge of key national and international agencies
- Knowledge of AusAID or other bilateral Development Cooperation Programs (an advantage)
- Demonstrated contract management skills
- Effective work planning, organizing and resource management skills
- Developed people and team skills
- Demonstrated communication, negotiation and representational skills

A capacity to deal with Australian contractors and/or local consultants is essential. A willingness to travel throughout the Philippines, including Mindanao, is also required.

Specifically, applicants should have:

- ☑ Two (2) to five (5) years of experience in program/project development and management
- ☑ Relevant tertiary qualifications
- ☑ Experience in working as part of a multi-cultural organisation
- ☑ Experience in dealing with donors, the government, NGOs and other related institutions
- ☑ Working knowledge of Microsoft office software applications
- ☑ Ability to work in a team environment

The successful applicant will contribute to the efficient and effective delivery of the development cooperation program through day-to-day management of ongoing activities and contracts, activity monitoring and reporting, quality policy input, and administrative support within a multi-functional cross cultural team. The key responsibility areas of the position are:

1. Manage a range of development-oriented complex activities (programs, projects and facilities) mainly in the areas of rural development, health or education;
2. Contribute to the development, formulation and review of policies, programs and activities within Philippine Country Program Strategy thematic areas.
3. Contribute to efficient and effective utilization of human, financial, material and other resources in accordance with relevant policies and procedures.
4. Contribute to the establishment and strengthening of effective relationships with development cooperation partners and stakeholders.
5. Support to the effective and efficient implementation of corporate programs and priorities
6. Provide appropriate administrative, logistic and technical support for the implementation of the Development Cooperation Program.

The successful applicant will be expected to commence at the earliest possible time. The commencing salary is negotiable depending upon qualifications and experience. The position is available on a renewable of two (2) year contract.

Kindly forward your written application (2-3 pages), resume (maximum of 4 pages), and two (2) work-related referral letters (preferrably addressing the above selection criteria) to the following address by COB Friday, 17 September 2004. Do not send copies of academic transcripts, awards, degrees, or published papers.

THE COUNSELLOR (DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION)
Development Cooperation Section - Australian Embassy
PO Box 1071 Makati Central Post Office, Makati City, 1200

Envelopes should be clearly marked "**SENIOR PROGRAM OFFICER /AUSAID**". Only those selected for interview will have their applications acknowledged.

AusAID is an Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) employer and maintains a smoke-free working environment.

Our company is looking for:

- **Front-Desk Customer Service Personnel** (college degree, 2 yrs. Hotel work experience)
- **Sales Assistants** (college degree, 2 yrs. corporate work experience)
- **Senior & Junior Fitness Trainers** (finished course work in Anatomy & Physiology, 1 yr. work experience in the fitness industry)
- **Restaurant and Lounge Crew** (1 yr. work experience)

Send your resumé to dive94@yahoo.com on or before 6 Sept., Mon., 3 pm. Be sure to include your contact numbers. You may reach us at 410-7926.

NEW GARMENT COMPANY IS IN NEED OF:

One (1) PATTERN MAKER

- graduate of any related course
- must be knowledgeable in drafting pattern including pattern grading
- knowledgeable in sewing operations
- knowledgeable in operating Lectra pattern making machine
- has excellent knowledge in fabric shrinkage
- has good communication skill and is hardworking
- minimum 5 years experience in a garment firm for jeans and skirts
- between 30-35 years of age

PLEASE SEND RESUMÉ WITH RECENT PHOTO TO:

MK 148
c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer
G/F, Atrium Bldg., Makati Avenue, Makati City

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IS LOOKING FOR
QUALIFIED APPLICANTS FOR
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- **TELESALES REPRESENTATIVES**
- **ACCOUNTANTS**
- **ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF**
- **ADMIN. & FINANCE OFFICER**

INTERESTED APPLICANTS MUST
BRING THEIR RESUMÉ TO
2176 PRIMO RIVERA ST.,
LA PAZ, MAKATI CITY.

CALL 896--4941 FOR MORE INFO.

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A DESIGN AND MANUFACTURING FIRM IS IN NEED OF THE FOLLOWING:

ACCOUNTANT

Female; 21 years above; Accounting Graduate ; With background in bookeeping; Able to produce and analyze Income Statement; Knowledgeable in consolidation of accounting reports; Preferably with accounting experience in a manufacturing industry.

GRAPHIC ARTIST

Male or Female; 21 years above; College Graduate Knowledgeable in Coreldraw 11 & Photoshop 7.

ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE

Male or Female; 21 years above; Experience In Sales is an advantage; Good Strong and charming voice; Fluent in English and Filipino; Good communication skills; Computer literate; Organized; Diligent and Self-Driven; Mature and trustworthy; Knows how to drive and willing to do field work.

Please submit resume with recent picture to:

JAY C. DESIGNS, INC.
142 Road 3, Pagasa, Q.C. Tel. No. 927-1776
5/F, Bldg. A, SM Megamall Tel. No. 635-6298
LGF, SM City North EDSA Tel. No 453-4364

IMMEDIATE HIRING
FOR A BIG PHARMA COMPANY

Accounting Assistant
- Female College Graduate of Accountancy or any Computer-Related Course
- 1 to 2 yrs work experience, with expertise in Microsoft Excel

Data Encoder
- Female College Graduate of any Computer-Related Course
- 1 to 2 yrs work experience as Data Encoder or IT Staff, with expertise in Microsoft Excel

Production Line Worker
- College Graduate or at least 2 years college of a Science Course
- Single, 5' female or 5'4" male
- Preferably with experience as production line worker

Receptionist
- College Graduate or at least 2 years college
- Female, at least 5'2" tall
- With pleasing personality and good communication skills

Apply personally at the Recruitment Office:
3F Sentro Kapitolyo Bldg.,
59 West Capitol Drive,
Barrio Kapitolyo, Pasig City. Tel. 747-2222
Mondays to Fridays

Bring 2 sets of bio-data with picture.

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HRD Specialist
- FEMALE, not more than 28 yrs. old
- Psychology graduate, SINGLE
- With at least 2 years experience in the same capacity
- Well adept in human resources operation especially in hiring & recruitment and records management

Sales & Marketing Officer
- Not more than 30 years old, M/F
- Business Degree holder with impressive academic records
- Self-driven, pleasant and bursting with enthusiasm
- Superior communication skills both verbal & written
- Strong background in sales & marketing is required

Motorized Messenger
- Male, not more than 30 years old
- Physically fit, with good oral communication skills
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- With valid Driver's License (res. 1, 2, 3)
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Please ATTACHED a certified true copy of your TOR & latest 2x2 photo to:

The Human Resources Department
E-Mail: Qualitreaders_inc@yahoo.com

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Qualifications:

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- Proficient in oral and written communication
- Eager to really practice law

Send Application, detailed resumé and Transcript of Records to:

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Manila

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For Manpower Services

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- ❖ F/S; not more than 30 yrs. old; w/ pleasing personality

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- ❖ Graduate of BS Medical Technology; must be licensed
- ❖ Single, Male / Female; not more than 30 yrs. old
- ❖ With good communication and interpersonal skills
- ❖ Flexible in time schedule and dedicated to work
- ❖ Computer literate
- ❖ With pleasing personality

RADIOLOGIC TECHNOLOGIST

- ❖ Graduate of BS Radiologic Technology; must be licensed
- ❖ Single, Male / Female; not more than 30 yrs. old
- ❖ With at least 1 yr. experience in clinic operations
- ❖ Computer literate

Note : Graduates of other medical related course are also welcome to apply.

Interested parties may submit their resumé, transcript of records, with 2x2 picture at:

ASALUS
7th/F Feliza Bldg. V.A. Rufino St., Legaspi Village, Makati City
Tel. No. 894-33-86

WANTED IMMEDIATELY

ACQUISITION SPECIALIST

A foreign assistance organization has an immediate need for an ACQUISITION SPECIALIST who will be responsible for the proper administration, timely completion, and prompt close-out of acquisition and assistance instruments managed by its different project offices. The successful candidate will be providing recommendations and / or alternatives as to the kind of acquisition or award for proposed activities of the project offices depending on the intent and level of control. He/She will have to ensure that the scopes of work for proposed activities are contractible and have complete documentation (scopes of work, budgets, waivers of competition or source and/or origin, if required) for acquisition / assistance purposes. The incumbent will be preparing solicitation documents ensuring that these are advertised where applicable. He/She will be required to participate in technical evaluation meetings as representative of the Contracting Officer where he/she will provide guidance on acquisition / contracting regulations and will ensure compliance with procurement integrity rules. The incumbent is also responsible for doing cost/price analyses to determine if costs in budgets are fair reasonable, and realistic. He/She is also responsible for negotiations with the organizations on costs/prices, terms, etc. until submission of final/best offer. Minimum educational requirement is completion of a Bachelor's degree in fields like in accounting, finance, business or pre-law. Completion of post graduate study is desirable. At least four (4) years of progressively responsible experience in acquisition, contracting, and assistance gained from an international or donor organizations highly preferred. Candidates with good knowledge of U.S. Federal acquisition and assistance regulations and procedures highly desirable. Good knowledge of international and local business practices and detailed knowledge of local market pricing customs and practices are required. An excellent command of English (both written and oral) and good computer skills are essential.

Competitive salary (including mid-year and year-end bonuses), health and life insurance, and a retirement plan are offered.

Application letter with 2x2 photo and comprehensive resumé must be received no later than September 10, 2004.

Human Resources Division
P.O. Box EA 423
1000 Ermita, Manila

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MARKETING MANAGER

Male or Female; not over 40 years old
Graduate of a 4-year business course: Master's Degree or units a plus
Must have excellent interpersonal and communication skills
Must have exposure to consumer marketing preferably in the retail sector
With good fashion sense
Willing to travel to outlets in the greater NCR area and occassionally to regional areas
With the drive to work in an entrepreneurial environment

Job Responsibilities:

To steer the company towards a solid leadership position in the industry through proactive marketing strategies and initiatives

Provide management with timely, accurate and comprehensive analysis of the company's position in the field

Promote a strong positive image of the company to its target market and the community through advertising and promotions sales and merchandising and public relations.

Expand distribution areas. Improve sales performances in current distribution sites.

KRA's include recommendation and establishment of effective marketing policies. Identification of the needs of the market through the conduct of regular researches, preparation and implementation of the actual sales performance and conceptualization of regular programs and activities aimed at strengthening the marketing and image of the company.

Interested parties are invited to submit their application letter and resumé with a color photo, references, and contact tel. no. by mail or fax addresses to:

The General Manager
NEW BARBIZON FASHION, INC.
#401, VFP Bldg. 2, Veterans Road,
Veterans Center, Taguig
Fax 02-8370393

Barbizon mona lisa sassa

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HUMAN RESOURCE ASSISTANT

- ❖ Female at least 23-27 yrs. Old / Single with pleasing personality.
- ❖ Able to administer Psychometric Test.
- ❖ Knowledgeable in all aspect of Recruitment Process.
- ❖ Has good oral / written communication and presentation skills.
- ❖ Background in Compensation and Benefits is an Advantage.

Interested applicants may send their resume with recent photo via e-mail.

JIMAC, INCORPORATED
HR DEPARTMENT
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near cor. Cordillera St. Quezon Ave., Quezon City
Tel No. 742-6832, 742-6840 loc. 117
e-mail address: hrd@jimac-inc.com

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FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE

- Between 21-30 years old
- Graduate of Mass Communication , Marketing or related courses
- With excellent communication and interpersonal skills
- With 1-2 years experience in sales/Fresh graduates are welcome to apply
- Independent and can work with minimal supervision
- Able to establish rapport with clients
- Dynamic, go-getter, a good team player

ACCOUNTING ANALYST

- Candidate must possess at least a Bachelor's/ College Degree or Professional License (Passed Board/Bar/Professional License Exam) in Finance/ Accountancy/Banking or equivalent.
- Must be a Certified Public Accountant (CPA)
- Required skill(s): word, excel, power point.
- At least 2 year(s) of working experience in the related field is required for this position.
- Preferably 1-4 yrs experienced employees specializing in Finance - General/Cost Accounting or equivalent.

GRAPHIC ARTIST

- Bachelor of Fine Arts(or a degree in Design/ Advertising) or any other related course
- Female/Male
- Well versed in MAC and PC applications
- Knowledgeable in various graphic softwares
- Extensive knowledge in prepress environment is an advantage
- Preferably has work experience in magazine production
- Can work under time pressure without sacrificing quality and efficiency
- Willing to work overtime

ASST. MANAGING EDITOR FOR SPECIALTY PUBLICATIONS

- Degree in Journalism or any related field
- At least 3 years experience in the publishing industry
- At least 27 years old
- Vast knowledge and well-exposed in the different editorial functions
- Excellent in oral and written Communication
- With strong leadership potential
- Must be creative, resourceful, hardworking and efficient

JR. PRE-PRESS TECHNICIAN

- Computer Engineer/ECE/Computer Science graduate
- Background or relevant experience in pre-press and printing operations preferred.
- Familiarity with major graphics software applications, file preflight and color reproduction theory.

ELECTRICAL ENGINEER

- Electrical Engineer graduate
- Can read schematic diagram
- Minimum of 2 years experience

FOLDING AND GLUING MACHINE OPERATOR

- Male/Female
- Previous experience with operation of automatic folding and gluing machines preferred

DIE CUTTING MACHINE OPERATOR

- Male/Female
- College graduate with engineering background preferred
- Previous experience with automatic platen die cutting machines will be considered.

GUILLOTINE TECHNICIAN

- Experience in polar cutter operation
- Fast learner
- With 3 years experience/College level

ASTER SEWING MACHINE OPERATOR

- At least high school; preferably with technical school education
- Preferably with experience in operating post press machines
- Hard working and willing to work long hours

FOLDING MACHINE OPERATOR

- At least high school graduate; preferably with technical school education
- Preferably with experience in operating post press machines
- Hardworking/willing to work long hours

ASSISTANT PRESSMAN

- Preferably 2 years experience sheet fed operation
- Fast learner
- College level

FEP Printing Corporation
Louie R. Prieto Press Building
Mascardo Street near
corner Pasong Tamo, Makati City
Or Email aoasan@fep.ph/rbalingit@fep.ph

We are inviting people who have what it takes to succeed in the **International Freight Forwarding Industry**

Sales Executive

- female, not over 28 years old
- experience in freight forwarding will be an advantage
- a team player
- a degree holder from a reputable college or university
- proficient in English, both written & oral
- computer literate

Marketing Assistant

- female, not more than 28 years of age
- a degree holder from a reputable college or university
- proficient in English, both written & oral
- a team player
- well organized, patient, with initiative and ability to interact with clients

We offer the following:

- Above-average industry Salary + Commission package
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Submit your resumés to:
Unit 7 Columbia Airfreight Complex,
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or to email address:
sander@optionslogistics.com.ph

PREVIOUS APPLICANTS NEED NOT APPLY AGAIN.

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SALES EXECUTIVES (80)

- M/F, 24 to 35 yrs old, college grad/level
- Experience in sales, Willing to do field work
- Hardworking, good comm. skills, presentable
- Lucky Applicants will enjoy Basic Pay & Commissions

TELEMARKETER (50)

- M/F, 22 -30 yrs old, college grad
- Experience as telemarketer an advantage
- Good Comm. Skills, Hard working & Productive
- Lucky Applicants will enjoy Basic Salary & Commissions

Due to the urgency of the above job openings applicants are advised to hand carry their résumé's w/ 1x1 pic & NBI clearance at
19th/F, Unit 1903, Jollibee Plaza, Emerald Ave.
Ortigas Center, Pasig
Tel. No. 687-2247 Fax No. 687-2246 Email:
eleth@ipc.com.ph

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Exclusive distributor of MOSSIMO KIDS lifestyle collection in the Philippines is now looking for

FASHION DESIGNER

- Female, 20-35 years old
- Fine Arts Grad with knowledge in Fashion Designing
- Has intensive work experience in fashion designing preferably of "Kid's Apparel"
- Computer literate preferably in ADOBE Photoshop & COREL
- Exceptionally creative, updated with the latest trends in clothing.

All interested applicants may submit their resumés and sample artworks (personal designs) personally at:

Mossimo Kids Apparel, Inc.
20A Kanlaon St., Quezon City
Tel. No. (02) 712-9329
and look for Ms. Janet Kiu

PHILIPPINE HEART CENTER

East Avenue, Quezon City

is now accepting applications for
Academic Year 2005

FELLOWSHIP (with specific requirements)

I. **Pediatric Cardiology**
- 3 years Residency in General Pediatric accredited by PPS
- at least passed written examination for Diplomate in Pediatrics by the PPS

II. **Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery**
- 5 years Residency in General Surgery accredited by PCS
- must have passed certifying examination given by the PBS (Board eligible/Diplomate)
- at least qualified to take PBS certifying examination and the submission of satisfactory results of the in-service training examinations

III. **Anesthesiology**
- 3 years Residency in General Anesthesia accredited by PBA (Board eligible)
- pre-fellowship (except for graduates of the Philippine Heart Center Anesthesia Residency Program)

RESIDENCY (QUERT not required) fill-up application at DOH for matching (for Medical Board Passers)

I. **Radiology**
II. **Nuclear Medicine**
III. **Biological and Clinical Laboratory (Pathology)**

** Deadline for submission of application is on September 15, 2004*
** Academic Year 2005 starts on January 1, 2005*

General Requirements for Application for Fellowship & Residency:

1. Medical Diploma
2. Transcript of Records with the Weighted General Average
3. Itemized Board Rating
4. Three (3) Letters of Recommendation (coming from different Doctors specifically the Training Officer &/or Director of the previous training programs)
5. Four (4) pcs. 2"x2" picture colored
6. Certificate of Residency in required specialty
7. Specialty Board Certificate in required specialty

Please address your communications to:

JOSE A. YULDE, M.D.
Assistant Director
Office of Education and Research
Philippine Heart Center
East Avenue, Quezon City

For further inquiries, please contact Ms. Carmela M. Ocasion (cp# 0919-2885303) or Ms. Cleopatra Q. Palencia (cp# 0916-3021735) with Tel. Nos. 925-2401 locals 3234, 3235, 3236 & 3237 and Telefax 926-9622, or you can email to oer@phc.gov.ph

---

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Young & mature-minded, 29-35 yrs. old, experienced in Sales Production,Intellectual Properties and Franchise Selling. Graduate of Marketing or any business-related course. With at least 4 yrs exp. in Sales/ Marketing Account Management. Preferably with own car. Chinese speaking is an asset

MARKETING ASSISTANTS / BRAND OFFICERS

Can write/do it all to assist in Marketing, Sales, Advertising, Promotions, public relations, research, copy/creative writing, etc. with minimum supervision. Must be a natural hyperactive human between 288 to 336 full moons, taller than 66 inches with 2 to 3 yrs. working experience in a Marketing environment. Must love the good life. A real go-getter when it comes to work. In 7 simple words, JACK OF ALL TRADES, MASTER OF SOME

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT (International Operations)

Must have strong communication & interpersonal skills & desire to thrive in a fast-paced environment. Can render decisions when necessary. Directly reporting to the President. Single female & a graduate from an exclusive school. Must be at least 5'5", between 25-30 years old with a fantastic personality. Detail-oriented, self-starter. Can organize a heavy workload with constantly changing priorities under heavy deadlines. Free to travel here and abroad & willing to work long hours

The pace is super-fast, the atmosphere ultra-positive and the rewards unlimited such as foreign travel. If you are ready for this opportunity and not afraid of things that "look like work", then send in your comprehensive resume & passport size photo to: empiront@mozcom.com or mail to:

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KMBI

A Christian development organization engaged in Microfinance & Business Development Services needs the following staff for its expansion in Calabarzon area (Sta. Cruz, San Pablo, Calamba, Batangas, Quezon), Caraga Region (Butuan, Surigao, Agusan), Bicol & Southern Mindanao areas.

Business Dev't. Services/Transformation Officer (for Bicol & Caraga)

- Male/Female, a graduate of any business course
- Values driven, diligent worker & team player
- Willing to be assigned anywhere in Luzon/ Mindanao
- With 1-2 years experience in community organizing
- Innovative, people oriented and motivator
- An active Christian

Accounting Associates (for Batangas, Lipa, Comval, Kidapawan, Iriga, Gumaca)

- Male/Female, a graduate of accountancy
- Familiar in FS preparation, and Branch to Head office reporting
- Willing to be assigned anywhere in Luzon & Mindanao

Audit Manager/Associates

- Male/Female, a graduate of Accountancy
- Values driven, diligent worker & teamplayer
- Willing to be assigned anywhere in Luzon/ Mindanao
- With 2-3 years managerial auditing experience

Interested applicants may submit their comprehensive resumé with 2x2 picture at the HRD Dept., KMBI Head Office, #12

KMBI Bldg., San Francisco St., Karuhatan, Valenzuela City or email
at kmbi@skyinet.net or m_orodio@yahoo.com
Telephone Numbers 291-1484-85; Fax No. 292-2441

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Please bring a valid ID with photo when you claim your prize at INQ7 Interactive, Inc. [illegible] Bldg., 6784 Ayala Ave. cor. [illegible] St. Makati City. For inquiries, please call (02) 892 1829 loc. [illegible] or e-mail [illegible]

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Customer service representatives:

We are currently looking for qualified candidates with ANY of the following:

- At least 6 months call center experience, preferably in technical support*
- Experience in setting airline reservations and bookings*
- At least 1 year of loan collections or direct-sales/telesales experience*
- Proficiency in Korean, Mandarin, Fookien and/or Cantonese languages (Email resumes to OPSjobs_ph@teltech.com with MULTILINGUAL stated on the subject line.)

Requirements:

- Graduate of any 4-year course
- Able to work varied shift types including weekend and evening shifts (40-hour work week)
- Fluent command of the English language including colloquial and idiomatic phrases

*To apply, please call 5529751 up to 55 during weekdays, 9am to 6pm, for a phone interview or bring an updated resume to our office for a face-to-face interview.

Workforce Planning Manager

OSCjobs_ph@teletech.com

- Minimum 2 years experience in the Call Center industry
- Minimum 1 year experience in a workforce planning and management role
- Minimum 2 years experience with Blue Pumpkin workforce management tool or equivalent

Corporate Buyer

hrjobs_ph@teletech.com

- Must be a graduate of any 4-year course.
- 5 years minimum direct and hands-on experience in procurement of goods and professional services required, with excellent skills in bidding and negotiations (contracts/pricing)
- Experience with ERP system (oracle) a definite plus
- Excellent oral and written English skills
- Current US Visa holder, preferable (for US-based training)

Training Supervisors

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- At least 6 months experience in a call center
- With previous supervisory and training experience

Product Trainers

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- Worked in a call center environment
- Comprehensive understanding of a call center environment
- Previous training or presentation experience or Train the Trainer certification or equivalent desirable

Accent and Conversational English Trainers

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- Must have lived/worked in the US
- Previous experience/training in Accent Reduction, English/Grammar teaching, Broadcasting, Public Speaking, Speech Therapy and Voice Coaching

QA Specialist

QA_jobs_ph@teletech.com

- With at least 6 months experience in airline reservations or bookings
- Minimum 1-2 years experience in a customer service environment.
- College Graduate degree qualified, or equivalent work-related experience
- Minimum 1 year experience in the Call Center industry desired

H.R. Generalist

hrjobs_ph@teletech.com

- Working knowledge of Labor laws, SSS, Philhealth, HDMF, BIR Tax Tables, and other relevant rules and regulations
- Preferably with a degree or masters in HR or equivalent experience

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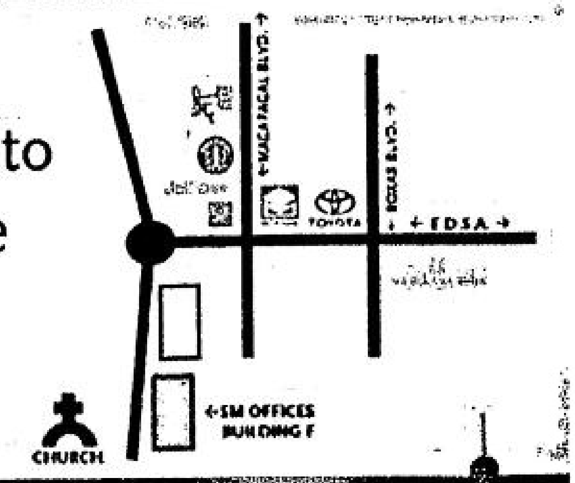

Manila office: Building F, SM Corporate Offices 1000 Bay Boulevard Bay City, Pasay City, Philippines

JOB Market

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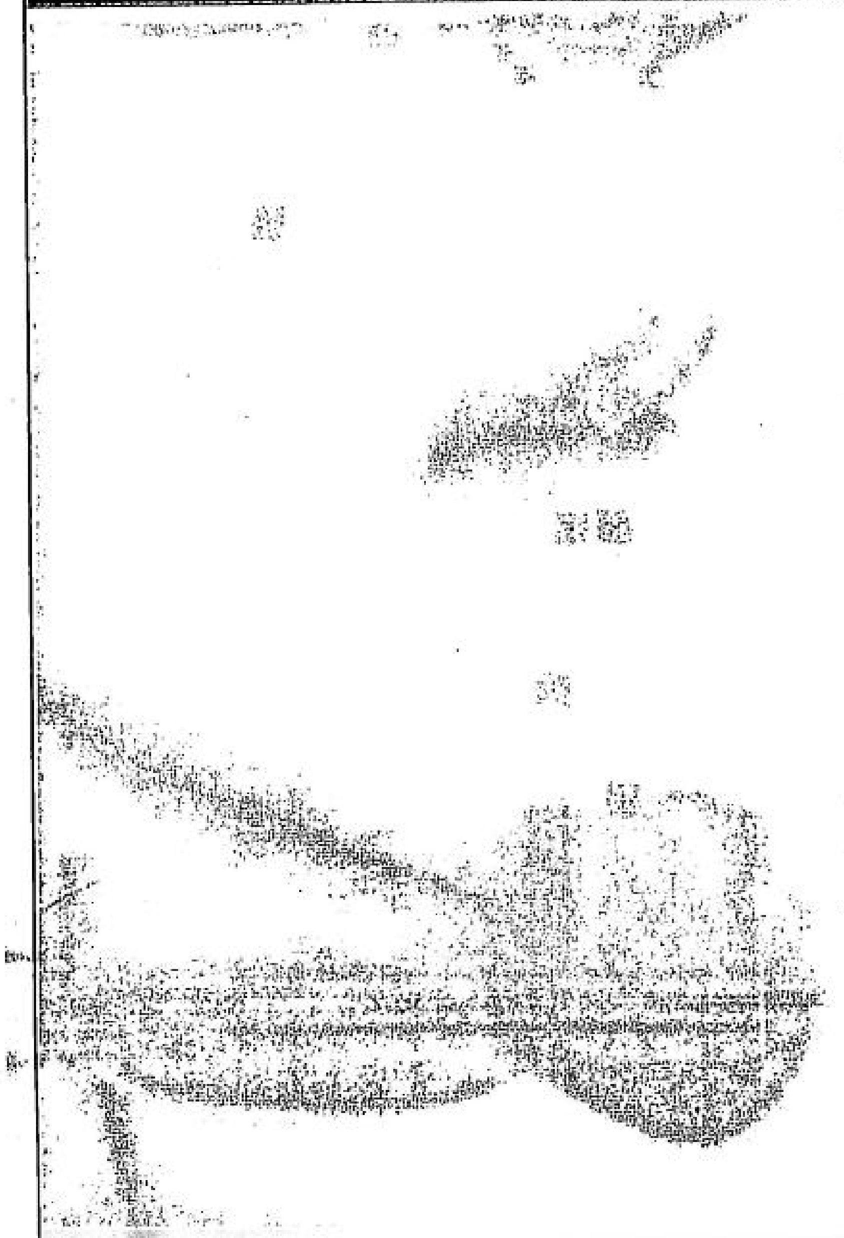
ICT GROUP

ICT Group is a leading globally integrated supplier of customer relationship management (CRM) solutions. We provide a comprehensive suite of sales, service and marketing solutions designed to help clients identify, acquire, retain, service, measure and maximize the lifetime value of their customer relationships.

More than 11,000 ICT Group employees at nearly 50 contact centers in the United States, Canada, Europe, Australia, Mexico, The Caribbean and the Philippines support multinational corporations and institutions, primarily in the financial services, insurance, telecommunications, healthcare, information technology, media, energy and hospitality industries.

In the Philippines, ICT Group has been noted as one of the fast-growing call centers in Manila giving opportunities to individuals who are comfortable with the technology and committed to client satisfaction and total quality.



CHINESE SPEAKING CUSTOMER SERVICE REPRESENTATIVES

Responsibilities
- Acts as front-line contact with the customers by telephonic communications
- Receives and responds to problems, queries and requests of the customer
- Ensures achievement of customer satisfaction

Requirements
- Previous Call Center and credit card experience an advantage
- Sales Account (experience in sales and marketing)
- **FLUENT in Fookien, can converse in Cantonese and Mandarin languages**

Qualifications
- Candidates must possess at least a Bachelor's/ College Degree in any field
- Excellent communication skills in conversational English
- Active listening skills
- Strong interpersonal skills to work with the customers and with the team
- Applicants must be willing to work on shifting schedules
- FRESH GRADUATES/ENTRY-LEVEL applicants are encouraged to apply

TECHNICAL SUPPORT REPRESENTATIVES

Responsibilities
- Acts as front-line contact with the customers by telephonic communications
- Receives and responds to **TECHNICAL** problems, queries and requests of the customer
- Ensures achievement of customer satisfaction

Requirements
- Graduate of an Engineering Degree (EE, ECE, ME, ChE, CoE) /Computer Science or any IT Related Course
- Experience in telecom and technical support a plus
- Excellent English Communication Skills (Oral and Written)

Qualifications
- Candidates must possess at least a Bachelor's/ College Degree in any field
- Excellent communication skills in conversational English
- Active listening skills
- Strong interpersonal skills to work with the customers and with the team
- Applicants must be willing to work on shifting schedules
- FRESH GRADUATES/ENTRY-LEVEL applicants are encouraged to apply

WE ARE ALSO IN NEED OF CUSTOMER SERVICE REPRESENTATIVES TO HANDLE GENERAL SALES AND FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS

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TRAVEL CONSULTANTS
- with at least 1 year work experience in a travel agency
- knowledge in Galileo and/or Abacus reservation system
- sufficient oral & written communication skills

SALES EXECUTIVES
- with sales and marketing experience
- excellent communication, sales and interpersonal skills
- hard-working with minimal supervision
- pleasing personality

ACCOUNTANTS
- college graduate, major in Accounting
- with at least 1 year work experience in a travel agency
- proficient in accounting systems and procedures
- organized, analytical and systematic

OPERATIONS SUPERVISOR/ MANAGER
- knowledge in Galileo and/or Abacus reservation system
- at least 1 year supervisory/managerial experience
- proactive, systematic & with good interpersonal skills
- experienced in packaging local & international tours
- experienced in handling corporate accounts
- fluent in written and oral English

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Customer service experience an advantage.

SPANISH-SPEAKING CSR's

Able to converse well in Spanish

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Must have 3 years experience in Human Resources, specifically in Compensation & Benefits and Employee Relations.

TRAINER

Must have completed an English degree with 1-3 years progressive experience in training design and facilitation

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All applicants must have completed a college degree and should be willing to work graveyard shifts. Previous applicants need not re-apply.

SM

If you want your career to go places, join any of our branches and get ready to reach the top of the corporate ladder

SELLING MANAGER / SUPERVISOR

not over 35 years old; graduate of any 4-year business course; with 1 to 2 years experience in retail operations, food chain or in sales in the same capacity; responsible for planning, controlling and directing selling activities and personnel for the attainment of sales target

CUSTOMER RELATIONS SERVICE MANAGER / SUPERVISOR

not over 35 years old; graduate of Criminology or any 4-year business course; male, must be 5'5½" & female, 5'2" in height; with 1 year related work experience in handling security matters and personnel; with basic knowledge in crisis management and human behavior; with keen investigation skills, detail oriented and physically fit; flexible to different work assignments and willing to be assigned to provincial branches and work on extended hours

WAREHOUSE SUPERVISOR

not over 35 years old; graduate of any 4-year business course; 5'2" in height; with extensive experience in all aspects of warehousing operations in a retail business; able to lead and motivate staff, and foster a team working environment

Interested parties for the following SM branches [illegible]
on September 13, 2004 from 10 am - [illegible]
[illegible]
(Harrison, Makati, Las Piñas, Bicutan, [illegible])
[illegible]
SM [illegible]
between [illegible] and Family [illegible]
(Please bring resumé, 2 pcs. 2x2 colored picture with white background
SSS Number / SSS Employment history printout and photocopy and original copy
of Transcript of Records and Diploma)

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bench/ now hiring!

Bench, the country's biggest name in fashion retail, in search of customer-oriented people who can be part of our team.

ORACLE ANALYST/PROGRAMMER

- Male/Female, 23-30 years old;
- Graduate of Degree in Computer Science, Information Technology, Computer Engineering or other related courses;
- Experienced in the use of ORACLE Designer and Developer Tools;
- Strong working knowledge of Systems Analysis and Design techniques for Relational Database Management Systems;
- Expertise in PL/SQL development;
- Exposure in any of the ff: ORACLE APPLICATIONS, DATAWARE HOUSING, BUSINESS INTELLIGENCE is an advantage;
- Familiarity with integration/interface development;
- With good communication and analytical skills;
- Able to work under pressure and minimum supervision;
- Willing to work long hours.
- Experience in retailing and warehouse transactions is an advantage

VIDEO EDITOR

- Responsibilities: Video post-production
- Male/Female, not more than 35 years old;
- Must possess a Degree in Broadcasting and Communication, Fine Arts or other related courses;
- With at least 2 years of solid and relevant work experience specializing in Arts/Creative/Graphics Design or its equivalent;
- Strong skills required in advanced video editing related programs such as: Adobe Premiere Pro, Adobe After Effects. Knowledge in Canopus is an advantage;
- Knowledgeable in the use of video editing related programs such as: Adobe Photoshop, Macromedia Flash, Macromedia Freehand, 3D graphics softwares, audio editing softwares and other related tools;
- Must be able to submit a portfolio of prior work;
- Strong artistic sense and creativity is a must;
- Good interpersonal and communication skills;
- Must be able to work under pressure and meet tight schedule with minimal supervision

STORE SUPERVISORS

- Male/Female; single or married;
- Between 21-30 years old;
- 5'2" for female and 5'7" for male;
- Graduate of any business related courses;
- Preferably with work-related experience in retail/food operations but new graduates with leadership potentials are welcome;
- Can work longer hours and on irregular schedule.

MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATES

- Female, between 22-28 years old;
- Industrial Engineering or Business Management graduate;
- One or two years experience in brand management and product development.

VISUAL MERCHANDISERS

- Male, between 20-28 years old;
- Graduate of Fine Arts, Interior Design or equivalent experience;
- Experienced in designing & implementing show window in store props and display;
- Basic knowledge in space planning and interior design;
- Must have strong visual, written, oral and electronic presentation skills

Please come for interview and bring your resumé with transcript of records and recent 2x2 ID picture
Look for Ms. Pam Navarro

SUYEN CORPORATION
2214 Tolentino Street, Pasay City, 1304 Philippines
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f 8448150
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The Century Park Hotel

is inviting qualified applicants for the position of

SOUS CHEF – F & B
(Main Kitchen)

and

SOUS CHEF – F & B
(Coffee Shop Kitchen)

- Seven (7) years experience, preferably in a hotel of international standard, at least three (3) years in similar position in cold and hot kitchen
- Cost-oriented
- Ability to handle personnel is a must
- Willing to work on split shift
- Personable and neat
- Must be very creative and quality-minded
- Not more than 40 years old
- Must have finished at least two (2) years of college education
- With strong leadership ability

Qualified candidates are invited to submit their resumés with a recent 2 x 2 colored photo and relevant certificates at:

599 P. Ocampo Sr. Street, Malate, Manila
or P.O. Box 117, CPO, Manila

A Joint Venture Manufacturing Firm

Needs

FINANCE/ACCOUNTING MANAGER

We are a manufacturing firm based in Clark Special Economic Zone. The Finance/Accounting Manager we need is a CPA with accounting and finance related experience. Administrative and organizational skills are very important qualifications. He or she must be willing to work in Clark Field, Pampanga, where our main office is located.

DISTRIBUTION MANAGER

The Distribution Manager will be responsible for managing a retail sales organization with about 100 personnel. His/her principal responsibilities are to identify and operate strategic retail locations, deliver the required sales volume, and manage the sales people. Male or female, the candidate will be based in Metro Manila.

Salary for either positions is negotiable, but minimum is P25K a month. If interested, you may send your resumé with picture to Fax No. 817-9665 or e-mail: mikhail0268@yahoo.com. Address to: Clark Manufacturer, Ref. Finance/Accounting Manager or Distribution Manager as the case may be.

INTERNATIONAL CORPORATION

urgently needs:

"WEB DEVELOPER/DESIGNER"

- ☐ 3+ YRS EXP. IN WEBSITE DESIGN & DEVT.
- ☐ UNDERSTANDING OF USER INTERFACES DESIGN
- ☐ STRONG FRONT-END WEB DEV'T SKILLS: HTML, DREAMWEAVER, FLASH, JAVASCRIPT XML-PROFICIENT IN PHOTOSHOP, ILLUSTRATOR, QUARK, DREAMWEAVER & ADOBE ACROBAT & WORD
- ☐ EXCELLENT DESKTOP PUBLISHING SKILLS
- ☐ EXCELLENT COMMUNICATION SKILLS BOTH WRITTEN AND VERBAL
- ☐ CREATIVE THINKING ABILITIES
- ☐ DETAIL-ORIENTED AND ORGANIZED

"WEB DEVELOPER/PROGRAMMER"

- ☐ 3+ YRS EXP IN WEBSITE DESIGN & DEV'T
- ☐ UNDERSTANDING OF USER INTERFACE DESIGN
- ☐ SKILLS IN ASP.NET, ASP VB NET, VB SCRIPT, HTML, CSS, CGI/PERL, UNIX, DATABASES (COMMENCE (PROPRIETARY) & SQL) JAVASCRIPT, XML, VB6, WINDOWS
- ☐ ABILITY TO LEARN QUICKLY & ADAPT WORK IN A SMALL-TEAM DEV'T ENVIRONMENT
- ☐ RESULTS-ORIENTED, WELL-ROUNDED AND SELF-MOTIVATED
- ☐ STRONG INTERPERSONAL & TEAM SKILLS

INTERESTED APPLICANTS CAN SEND RESUMÉ TO:
terence@nxpro.net
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#0927-3170589 & 049-5412473
MR. JAMES CUETO
#0919-8710066 / 0918-3254273

For Immediate Hiring!

SHOWROOM SALES EXECUTIVES

Male, 22-30 years old, pleasant personality, fluent in English, with significant exp. in retail selling.

STORE ADMINISTRATION ASSISTANT

Female, 30 & below, Acctg. Grad. with cashiering and inventory exp.

For inquiries call Ms. Bel at 681-2866/93

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Is looking for dynamic individuals to fill the positions of

TEAM LEADER

Requirements
- Candidate must possess at least a Bachelor's/College Degree in any field.
- At least 1 year managerial experience in retail companies
- Must be Honest, Hardworking, Responsible, Creative and Resourceful
- Should have a pleasing personality
- Results oriented

Responsibilities
- Responsible for overall store operations -conceptualization and effective implementation of business strategies to achieve sales target with full profit and loss accountability for the store.
- Shall effectively implement customer service, visual display and inventory control standards

SALES ASSOCIATE

Requirements
- Must be competent, trustworthy, responsible and a team player
- Highly personable, dynamic and with a mature disposition

Send your resume to
Instyle Apparel, Inc.
2F Tesoro Bldg., 1016 Arnaiz Ave. Makati 1223

A leading packaging firm needs

FEMALE SECRETARY

- 21-25 years old
- Must be college graduate, computer literate
- Preferably with experience in office work.

Please bring resumé & transcript of records to #89 A. Del Mundo St. (between 6th & 7th Avenue) West Caloocan City.

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-With relevant sales background in a high-end service industry
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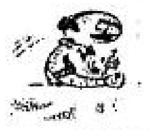

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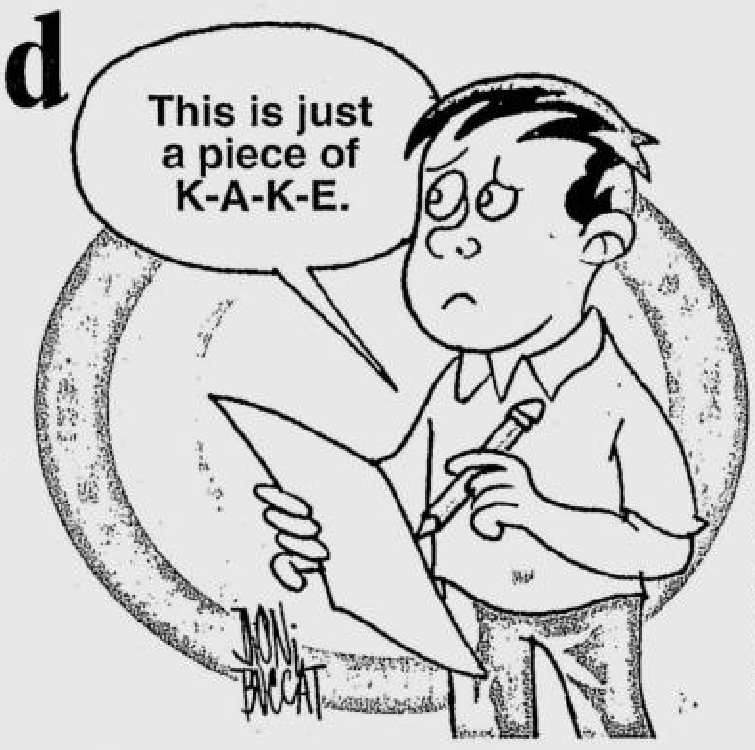
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By Josie O. Santamaria

ASK YOUR CAREER COUNSELOR

I READ your column in Sunday People at Work last Aug. 22 entitled "I am nervous speaking in English." I am so thankful that Inquirer came up with this idea of giving not just job openings to jobseekers but also advice. In view of this, can I request for answers on frequently asked questions that you cited in your column? Some of the questions there are familiar to me and I would just like to compare my answers from your point of view. Thank you very much and I hope you can reply to my letter. This will help me a lot in preparing for my incoming job interviews. More power!

Mr. D.

Congratulations! Since you have reached the interview stage in your job hunt, it seems that your letter of application and resumé were obviously well prepared and acceptable. So now the door is open for your interview.

Here are some tips on how you can make a good first impression in your job interview. Remember you may have no second chance. These tips will help you to be self-confident. Your self-confidence will be shown in your poise, in the manner you talk, and the content of what you say.

Interview tips

1. **Be prepared.** Know the company you are applying to: its products or service, competitors and industry. Be prepared with answers to frequently asked questions. Know the job position you are applying for and your suitability for it. This was the subject of "Ask Your Career Counselor" in the Aug. 22 issue. In that article, I pointed out the importance of researching on the company you are applying to. This will put you ahead of other job applicants who don't bother to know about the company. This will also prepare you to answer confidently the questions: "Why are you applying to us? What do you know about our company?"

2. **Dress appropriately for the interview.** Dress to feel confident. Wear casual business attire. For a man, this means wearing a long-sleeved or short-sleeved shirt with tie. The color of shirt should be solid, not printed. Design of tie should be conservative, not loud. Or wear a long-sleeved *barong* in white or light colors. For a lady, this means wearing a blazer on top of a solid-colored blouse with skirt or slacks. The skirt must cover the knee. Makeup must be conservative.

3. **Arrive before the scheduled time for the interview so you can rest and relax in the lobby before you are called for the interview.** While waiting, use the time to take breathing exercises and mentally go over your answers to most frequently asked questions. If possible, ask the person at the reception if you can go to the employee comfort room. If you chance upon an employee there, you can possibly initiate a conversation and ask at least two questions: How long has he or she been employed with the company? What does he or she like about the company? If asked why, say that you are a job applicant. You will be surprised at the information you will get.

4. **Put off your cell phone or put it on silent mode.** Never use your cell phone while being interviewed even if your interviewer does so.

Standards

Bear in mind that during the interview, the interviewer, through the questions, is assessing if you have the marks of a good productive employee. A good and productive employee is one who wants more than a paycheck. He is dependable and self-motivated. He has a high energy level and sense of urgency. He is enthusiastic and self-disciplined. He is usually good at managing his own time, punctual (arrives at work on time or early), and stays until quitting time or even later. He loves to learn, is very trainable and flexible and can respond positively to novel or stressful situations or adept when circumstances at work change.

Most interviewers will also be looking for signs that you are a person who can relate well with people at all levels. They will observe whether you can communicate effectively in English. They will also try to find out if you are skillful with the computer, a team player and goal-oriented. They will look for indications of creativity and problem-solving skills. The interviewers will watch out for your ability to identify opportunities, markets and latest trends. And above all, they are analyzing if you have a good attitude and integrity and can be loyal to the organization.

So, plan to demonstrate or claim as many of these as you legitimately and honestly can, during the hiring interview. Just be sure that whatever you claim is illustrated by the way you apply to companies. For example, if you claim you are very thorough in all you do, be sure your resumé shows it and that you have done research on the company.

Answers to FAQs

Here are some questions frequently asked during job interviews and my suggested answers.

1. "Tell me about yourself."

Tell the interviewer very briefly where you were born and raised, family background, hobbies and talents and the kind of work you have enjoyed the most to date. Then, focus on your suitability for the job position you are applying for.

If you are applying for your first job after graduating from college, talk about your apprenticeship program and on-the-job training and the time management and leadership skills you learned from this experience. The following is a sample answer.

"I am a Bicolana, born in Buhi, Camarines Sur 22 years ago. I grew up in Quezon City. My father is a supervisor at ____ and my mother is a schoolteacher at ____. I am the eldest of five siblings. As eldest, I have the responsibility of monitoring if my brothers and sisters are doing their homework. I tutor them with their difficult assignments. I cook and clean the house during weekends. I am passionate about work that suits my interests and personality. In my previous job at ____, I always talked with the person using my report on his expectations of the report in terms of quality and deadline. I also make use of the Internet to get additional information about what I am doing."

"In my OJT at the ____ Hotel in my junior year, I had the opportunity to work in the office of the HR Director. I was given the chance to take the minutes of the weekly HR meeting. I had to listen carefully and then verify after the meeting some items taken up that I was not sure of. I did these to ensure accuracy of my data. I also finished the printing of the minutes on the day the meeting was held. I submitted the minutes to the HR Director before leaving the office."

2. What are your strengths? Do you have outstanding skills?

In answering this question, do not repeat the key competencies you have mentioned in your resumé. Think of a talent or outstanding skill that you have that are related to the job position you are applying for. For example, you can say, "I find ways to continuously improve what I am doing in terms of the quality of my work and the speed of delivery of the expected results. I also have a high energy level and sense of urgency. I can relate well with my coworkers because I ask them for inputs, listen to them and consider their needs and concerns."

(*More answers to frequently asked questions and interview tips in Ms Santamaria's next column on Sept. 19. Ms Santamaria is president of Career Systems Inc., a leading career development consul tancy company. Send requests for career advice to* carsys@qinet.net *or to* peopleatwork@inquirer.com.ph.)

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- Computer literate
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- Male, female, at least 25-35 years old
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MSF-Switzerland
(Street Children Project)
1519 F Benitez St.
Paco City of Manila 1007
Tel. (+632) 404 30 84
Fax (+632) 526 42 38
msfch-sc@compass.com.ph

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- Experienced in working with pyschosocial program, preferred
- Exposure to non governmental organization in a multi-cultural setting
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MS. FRAN D. MILLER
Project Coordinator
Street Children Project
1519 F. Benitez St., Paco, Manila 1007
Telefax 526-4238
E-mail: msfch-sc@compass.com.ph
(Only short listed candidates will be notified)

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Cellphone : 0919-4312107	Cellphone 0919-2104200

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- Preferably Female
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Q.C. Central Post Office
1161 Q.C. Philippines
E-mail : sendapplications@yahoo.com

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Tels. (02) 421-0671 to 78
E-mail address:
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- With at least 2 years work experience as a *media buyer or media planner*

MARKETING PLANNING MANAGER

- Graduate of BS Management, Business Economics, Business Administration or Accounting and should be a graduate of reputable colleges or universities
- Should have been part of the top 25% of the graduating batch and should have had leadership role in any school organization during college
- With at least two years exposure in *brand management* or as *industry analyst or exposure in marketing/business planning functions in an industry consulting firm or in a financial institution*

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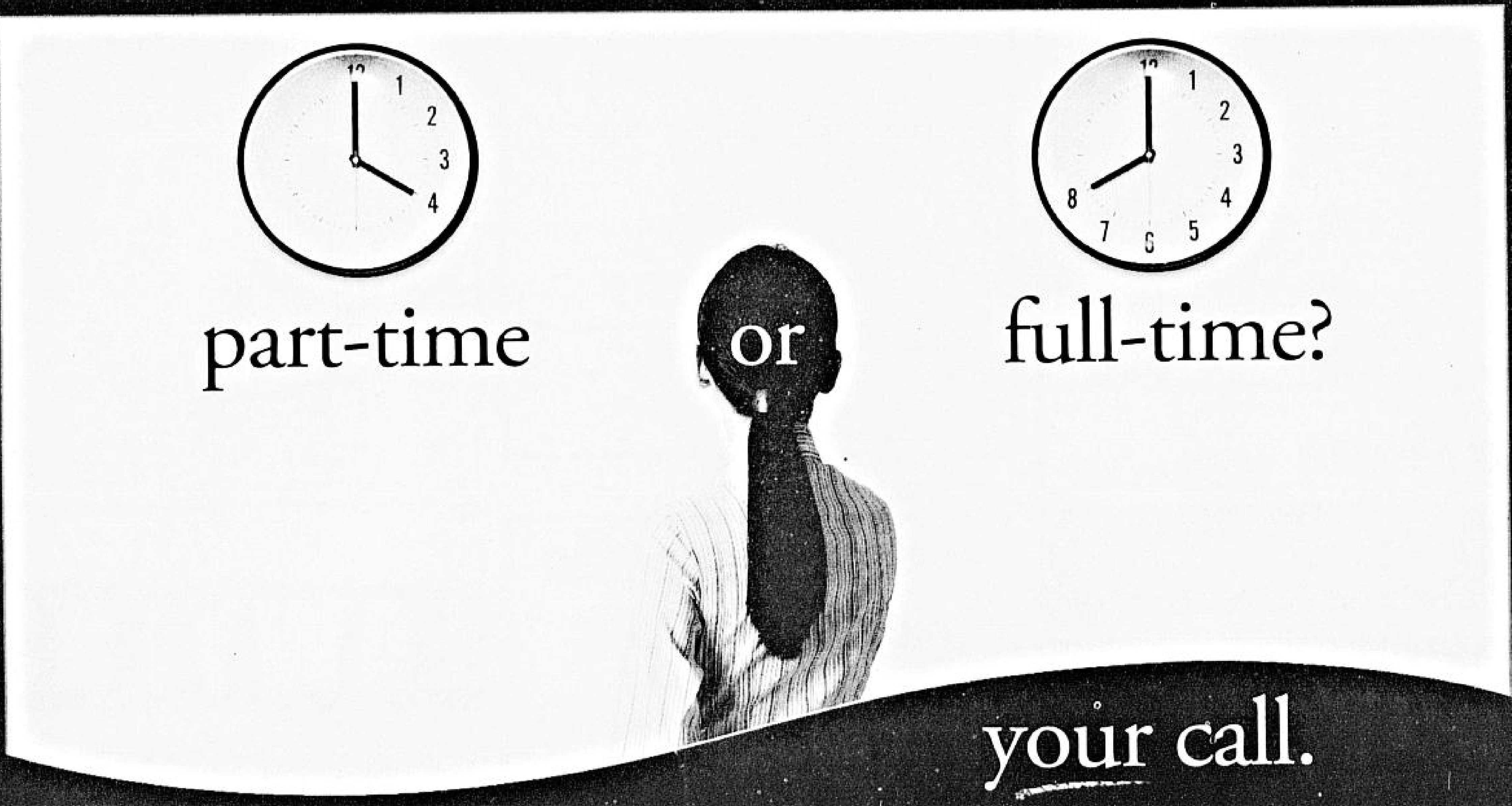
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Man of many hats runs growing review center

By Cecile G. Garcia

HR Focus

MANAGING the day-to-day operations of a growing company can be daunting. But, 26 year-old Gerard Alferez, operations manager of MSA Academic Advancement Institute, seems unfazed. Admittedly, his job is not easy. He says, "My main function is to monitor the quality of service delivery in all of MSA's eight branches. But, I perform other duties as well."

True enough, besides running the company, Alferez handles the hiring of employees, acts as mediator in disputes between staff and management, helps out in conceptualizing new programs and curriculums and in updating existing ones. He also teaches Math in both tutorial and review classes. In addition, he oversees the operations of MSA Educational Tours and Travel, a subsidiary of the company. "In certain instances, I act as troubleshooter. I do the dirty work," volunteers Alferez.

Family-run company

Low key and self-effacing, Alferez is a BS Commerce graduate of De La Salle University and has an MA in education from the Ateneo de Manila. An only child, he joined the family-owned firm after graduating from college in 1998. MSA is primarily a tutorial and review center. Founded 16 years ago by his mother, Merle S. Alferez, a math teacher, it has since ventured into publication of textbooks and has established a pre-school, an academic daycare center and a travel agency specializing in educational tours. Alferez attributes MSA's phenomenal growth to divine plan, hands-on management and seamless teamwork.

As operations manager, he has contributed to its growth as well. Alferez points out, "I paved the way for the company to be ISO Certified. I set up our preschool in Makati." Earlier this year, he conceptualized the bookshop, tutorial and academic daycare centers at SM Fairview. "I suggested the design, negotiated the contract with SM and worked as foreman during construction."

Self-motivated

Alferez makes it a point to lead by example. "I make them feel I'm one of them. I want them to be able to relate to me. Once in a while, I organize corporate outings in order to encourage camaraderie among the different branches." MSA's organizational chart is flat, says Alferez. The prevailing culture is one in which there's equality and a minimum of bureaucracy. The environment is informal and hierarchy or rank is downplayed.

Making sure that their teachers are properly motivated is one of Alferez's major concerns. "Financial reward is part of it. But we try to imbue them with a sense of mission. Because we provide supplementary education, we try to make them aware of their role, which is to help students bring out the best in themselves." Their teachers are generally dedicated and committed, he adds.

The young Alferez is self-motivated. He says, "I set goals for myself and push myself to achieve them." When he was starting out, he had a 10-point plan, he recalls. "I've been able to achieve most of them. Not on my own, of course. I consult my parents regularly. We discuss things and share ideas. We usually arrive at a decision by consensus, though my mom has the final say." However, it would not be unusual for Alferez, who does the implementation, to do whatever he believes is right.

Bigger perspective

Guided by his philosophy in life, "you reap what you sow," Alferez tries to work harder than anybody else in the company. He discloses, "I like my job. But I feel my role—running the business—is rather limited. My goal actually is to decentralize management through proper delegation. I really would like to focus more on corporate planning." Alferez feels being able to see the company as a whole is an asset. "I have a macroperspective of MSA," he declares. While this is a clear edge, it also helps that he is capable of substituting for anyone, doing anything that needs to be done, from teaching Science or English to ticketing (in the travel agency). "All of us here are multi-tasked," he notes, underscoring once again the informality, the near absence of delineation in rank and role within the firm.

In truth, having multiple tasks—wearing many hats—suits Alferez perfectly. He admits, "It's actually the best part of my job. I don't think it would be as interesting to be confined or limited to one particular area." The downside or the worst part is having to work seven days a week, with virtually no day off. "We're even busier on holidays because that's when students have the time for tutorial or review classes." But, regardless of the demands on his time, Alferez finds his job deeply rewarding. "All that matters is seeing students learn, pass their exams and improve their standing in class. At the end of the day, it's enough that we are able to make a difference in their lives."

ALFEREZ AUGUST DELA CRUZ

Inspiration from parents

Understandably, Alferez takes pride in the family business. "MSA is a pioneer," he avers. "We professionalized the industry. In some way, we have uplifted our educational standards. On another level, we try to help students overcome their phobia of Math. In line with this mission, we conduct free seminars for teachers all over the country. We donate books to public schools and to NGOs. We try to uplift the quality of books through our own publishing house." Their ultimate goal is to put up a non-sectarian school for preschool and grade school students.

Alferez sees himself continuing the business and "hopefully, equaling or surpassing my parents' achievements." Apparently family-oriented, he reveals, "My family is my inspiration and my refuge."

Fifteen myths about ...

From page 7

perience that the employer seeks--and whether all those are current. You also have to have the proper attitude—that you are a team player, not a seasoned professional who knows all the answers and is unwilling to change. And, of course, if you are employed in an industry that focuses more on youth, then it may still be harder for you to find a new job.

Myth 14: It takes one month of job searching for every $10,000 of current salary.

No one seems to know where this calculation comes from—and no one has ever substantiated it. The fact is that every job search is different. And external factors such as the economy and demand for your particular set of skills and experiences will impact your search time. Noted career expert Richard Bolles (of "What Color is your Parachute?") states in a question-and-answer we conducted with him: "I think people adopt unrealistic guesstimates about how long their job hunt is going to take. We should expect that our job hunt may take months, but if we persevere, we will find a job."

Myth 15: When times are tough, take the first job offer you get.

In all my years of experience, the one truth is that job hunting is streaky. You'll have weeks where you interview for positions and you are sure you'll get an offer and no offer ever comes, and then there will be weeks when you get multiple interviews and perhaps multiple offers. Should you take the first job offer that comes along? Only if you are sure that the job and the compensation represent the right career move. If not, a better offer will come along—and as long as you are not about to lose your house or suffer other financial or emotional consequences, you should hold out for the job offer that best fits the direction you want to move in.

Questions about some of the terminology used in this article? Get more information (definitions and links) on key college, career, and job-search terms by going to our Job-Seeker's Glossary of Job-Hunting Terms.

(Dr. Randall Hansen is currently the webmaster of Quintessential Careers, as well as publisher of its electronic newsletter, QuintZine. He writes a biweekly career advice column under the name, The Career Doctor. He is also a tenured, associate professor of marketing in the School of Business Administration at Stetson University in DeLand, Florida. He is a published career expert—and has been for the last ten years. He is co-author, with Katharine Hansen, of Dynamic Cover Letters. And he has been an employer and consultant dealing with hiring and firing decisions for the past fifteen years. He can be reached at randall@quintcareers.com. *Copyright by Quintessential Careers. The original article can be found at www.quint careers. com/job-hunting_myths.html. Reprinted with permission.)*

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Fifteen myths about job hunting

By Randall S. Hansen, PhD

JOB
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HOW MUCH of a job hunting expert are you? Read over these 15 myths and misconceptions about job hunting and see how many of them you believed in and how many you knew were incorrect. Once you know the truths about job hunting, you should have more job search success—and less stress.

Myth 1: Registering at several Internet job boards will result in multiple job offers.

One of the most prevalent misconceptions in job hunting is that job hunting on the Web is some magic elixir that will result in employers lining up to interview you. While job hunting on the Web should be one component of a job search for most jobseekers, it should not be viewed as having any higher success rates than applying to help-wanted ads in the newspaper or trade magazines. Only about five percent of jobseekers obtain jobs through ads.

Myth 2: Want ads and other job postings represent the majority of jobs available.

At the very most—and some say this number is too high—only about 15 to 20 percent of all available jobs are ever publicly advertised in any medium. The vast majority of job openings are part of the "hidden" or "closed" job market. And the higher the position and salary, the less likely the position will be advertised at all. How can jobseekers discover these jobs? Through networking. Networking is by far the most effective job search tool you can use. Networking is all about building relationships with people who can help you in your job search; it doesn't mean that you need to ask everyone you know if they have a job for you.

Myth 3: Jobseekers who change jobs often are frowned upon by employers.

The notion of "job-hoppers," those jobseekers who had multiple jobs with short stays listed on their resumés, has been disappearing for years. Ever since the great "downsizing" and "right sizing" of companies during the 1980s and 1990s, employers have recognized that there rarely is any logical progression—or corporate ladder—within any one company anymore. To get ahead and gain new skill sets, jobseekers often need to make multiple moves. Avoid really short stints—under a year—but otherwise don't be too concerned with moving around. And if you are concerned, focus on your transferable skills with a functional rather than chronological resumé.

Myth 4: A cover letter is not as important as other job-hunting materials.

Every time you apply for a job, you should send a cover letter written specifically for the position and company you are applying to. The only exception to this rule is when the employer explicitly states that it does not want a cover letter. A cover letter, also known as a letter of introduction or letter of application, must be an integral part of your job-search strategy. A resumé is useless to an employer if he or she doesn't know what kind of job you are seeking. A cover letter tells the employer exactly what job you are seeking—and how you are uniquely qualified for that position.

Myth 5: A resumé must show a logical progression of jobs and increased responsibility.

The most important part of a resumé is showing that you have the skills, education (or training), and experience that the employer seeks. Most employers will spend less than 20 seconds reviewing your resumé, which means you need to focus on the key components of your resumé that will result in getting a job interview.

Myth 6: As long as you're sending out cover letters and resumés, you'll get interviews.

Maybe in the tightest of job markets, or maybe if you are only applying to specific positions for which you are perfectly qualified, will this kind of passive job-search strategy produce any job interviews. As a jobseeker you must be proactive in your job search. You must follow-up every job lead. Call employers and request an interview. If you are underqualified for a position or changing careers, request an interview anyway. You may not be qualified for that specific position, but the employer may have other openings (or know of other openings).

Myth 7: Lowering your salary demands will make you a more attractive job candidate.

Jobseekers should never lower reasonable salary demands because doing so will just make you appear desperate for the job—and will likely result in your not getting the job offer. And even if you got the offer and accepted it, you would most likely never be happy in your job or with your employer because you would feel you were cheated out of the salary you deserved. As long as your salary demands are within acceptable range for the job you're seeking as well as the industry and location of the employer, stick to them. And never be the first to bring up salary; let the employer raise the issue.

Myth 8: If you can't schedule job interviews between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. you're out of luck.

While it's certainly true that a majority of job interviews are conducted during traditional business hours, employers will certainly find time during "off-hours" to interview desirable jobseekers. And it's often better to interview during these times because there are fewer distractions.

Myth 9: The most qualified jobseekers get the best jobs.

Probably the biggest misconception about interviewing, it is not always the best qualified person who gets the job, but the jobseeker with the best mix of qualifications, interviewing skills, and rapport with his or her interviewer/s. So, don't be too cocky if you feel you are the most qualified person for the job—and don't be too discouraged if you don't feel you exactly match up with the job. If you get a job interview, it's because the employer thinks there is a strong enough match of your skills, education, and experience to do the job—and at the interview, you need to prove why you are the best person to fill the job.

Myth 10: Headhunters and executive recruiters have your best interests at heart.

Headhunters and executive recruiters get paid by the companies that hire them to fill their open positions, so where exactly is their loyalty? With their client companies, of course. Recruiters will not market jobseekers to companies; instead, they try to fit jobseekers into well-defined positions with the companies that employ their services.

Myth 11: Changing careers is nearly impossible.

As the workplace continues to change and evolve, more and more people will change careers in their lifetimes—and many will change careers multiple times. As long as you have a plan and do your best to stick with it, you should be able to switch careers. That said, switching careers is not easy. It takes much effort to switch careers and may involve getting more education (or training), getting experience in the new career field, and focusing on how the skills you currently possess transfer to the new career field.

Myth 12: Jobseekers should not have to sell themselves to employers.

For better or worse, job hunting is all about marketing yourself to employers—which often means using some key selling skills to close the deal and get the job offer. You are the product, and you need to show the employer why you are the best product for the job. In today's job-hunting environment, the most successful jobseekers are those who understand the value of marketing and apply to themselves those principles that companies have used for years to successfully sell their products

Myth 13: If you're over 50, you will have a hard time finding a job.

The baby boomers (those born between 1946 and 1964) are completely redefining the meaning of age and older works, and thus older workers should theoretically have a lot fewer problems finding new jobs than in the past. The critical issues are whether you have the skills, education, and ex-

FIFTEEN/P. 6

Should I join a start-up?

WORKING WOUNDED
Bob Rosner

DEAR WW: I got a call from a start-up that wants to lure me away from my Fortune 500 com pany. The package they offered sounds good, but I'm gun shy—especially given how the market is doing.

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Working for a start-up these days can be as mutilating an experience as Michael's, with no guarantee you'll come through intact. That said, however, it's often worth the risk. The questions below can help you decide if it's right for you. For more, check out Dan Rippy's "Sizing up a Start Up" (Perseus, 2000).

How much are they offering? Start-ups often compensate for lower salaries with bonuses and stock options. But don't get seduced by what might be. Negotiate for the most cash and the best package you can. Don't be put off by a current low stock price. A low price now makes options cheaper to cash in, increasing your upside potential in the future.

How well positioned is the start-up? The days of start-ups raking in the dough are over so you've got to be sure the company is well positioned to (dare I say it?) earn a profit. Does it have a distinct competitive advantage in terms of its product, technology and intellectual property?

Does it have customers who currently pay for its products or services? Can its employees deliver on the business plan—or is it mostly a good idea? How will it vanquish its competitors?

Can they walk their talk? To survive, a start-up needs cash—lots of it. Have they met their targets for raising money? Are they doing what they said they would do (delivering product, signing up customers, etc.), which would encourage investors to contribute more? What do they realistically expect to get in the near future? What if that falls through? How much do they have in the bank? How fast do they spend it? What's the worst-case scenario?

Will you have opportunities to grow? Job descriptions at start-ups tend to be fluid. Explore how much room you'll have to learn and grow. Are you willing to start all over again? You know why they call them start-ups, don't you? Because the employees have to start-up all over again after the company dies! Hopefully that won't happen, but are you prepared in case it does? Do you have money in the bank to cushion the blow, and the resilience to look for and learn another job?

There are times when it pays to go out on a limb with your career. Just be sure you've investigated the limb fully so you don't get hurt.

(Mr. Rosner is based in Seattle, Washington, USA. E-mail him at bob@workingwounded.com.)

ILLUSTRATION BY DIONISIO BUCCAT
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What's inside

HR Focus: Gerard Alferez of MSA p. 6

Ask your Career Counselor p. 4

Two-headed monster

By Teresa R. Tunay, OCDS

READING today's Gospel you would probably think, "This guy Jesus, he's a tough boss! Give up everything for him, bah! Asking too much!" You would be right—and wrong at the same time. He's indeed asking too much, but once you see it's for your own good, then it becomes too little.

So how did Jesus and His demands get into the workplace? Because, come to think of it, our possessions really often get in the way of work. Take Trina—billed as "glamour girl" in the office—she's in sales so she says she has to look her best all the time. Trina has a wardrobe maybe bigger than Britney Spears' and a mind just as fickle; thus, she takes too much time dressing up for work each day. This has resulted in missed appointments and unnecessary delays in the work flow, causing no minor irritation among her coworkers. So who, or what, is the culprit here? Her clothes, shoes, jewelry, accessories—in short, her possessions? But why? Because our possessions, like it or not, sooner or later get to possess us, too! Trina may not be aware of it but she is already possessed by the idea that she has to live up to her reputation as "glamour girl"—something that eats up too much of her time, effort and money and erodes her efficiency as well.

Trina's boss is worse—he has two motorbikes, three cell phones, four cars, and god-knows-how-many women. See, "possessions" in today's Gospel stands for things we possess and thoughts that possess us—a two-headed monster that looks very cute at birth but stealthily grows until it strangles us dead. Jesus simply wants to save us from that monster. Is He asking too much? *(E-mail the author at* teresa_de_manila@yahoo.com)

REFLECTIONS FOR THE WORKING SOUL

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Gospel: Luke. 14: 25-33

"In the same way, everyone of you who does not renounce all his possession cannot be my disciple."

Selfless worker

By Bishop Precioso D. Cantillas, SDB, DD

THROUGHOUT history, we know of several examples of men and women who leave their professions, their wealth or prestige in order to follow Jesus. In recent years, I have known lawyers, doctors, professors, and executives who left their work in order to become a disciple of Christ in the religious life or priestly service. The difficult challenge of Christ to "renounce one's possessions" to become His disciples can be lived by all of us, including the ordinary worker or top-level executive even in the workplace itself.

A worker or an executive who wishes to follow Jesus need not be "jobless." One can "renounce all his possessions" by letting go of man's true possession—the ego or self, which determines every choice or decision one makes in life and work. The worker who tries to be "selfless" (as opposed to being "selfish") becomes more industrious in his job, more generous with his time even for his work, more self-sacrificing in taking up off-duty assignments, and easier to get along with; in short, he becomes very efficient and productive. The manager or executive, likewise, who habitually thinks and decides with the "mind of Christ" and not solely with his managerial skills, values persons more than things—the welfare of his subordinates rather than the cost of the machineries and capital investment. Such management style will lead the company, not to bankruptcy, but to a better workplace worthy of human beings.

Jesus continues to challenge everyone in the workplace to a "selfless" way of working, which gives everybody in the workplace greater "self-fulfillment." *(E-mail the author at* mfvg@skyinet.net)

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GET TO KNOW SOME REAL PEOPLE
INQUIRER
magazine
September 5, 2004

54th YEAR
Don Carlos Palanca Memorial Awards for Literature

Isagani R. Cruz
Hall of Fame

The Winners of the 54th Don Carlos Palanca Memorial Awards for Literature

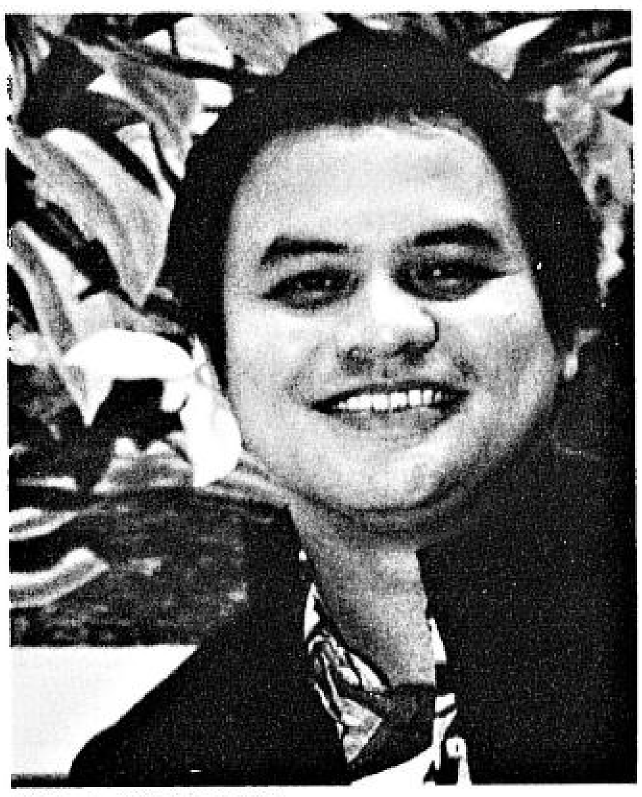
The Literary Medallists

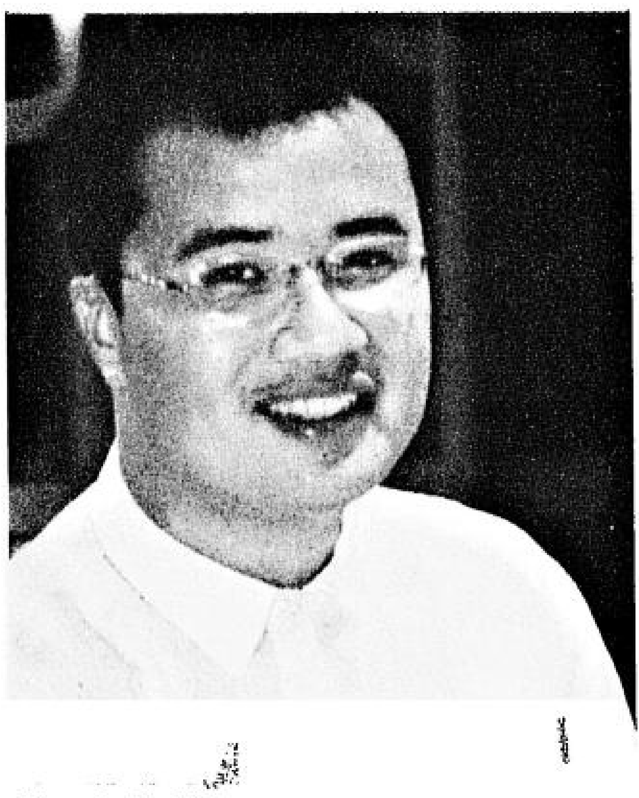
Edgar C. Samar
Poetry in Filipino

Wordsmiths take a bow in country's premiere competition for prose, plays and poetry

Naya S. Valdellon
Poetry in English

Asterio Enrico N. Gutierrez
Short Story in English


Wilfredo O. Pascual Jr.
Essay in English


Glenn Sevilla Mas
One-Act Play in English

Honorio Bartolome De Dios
Short Story in Filipino

Luna Sicat Cleto
Essay in Filipino

By the SIM staff
Photographs by August dela Cruz

IT IS the day of the gathering, this first day of the ninth month, a time for revelation, celebration and evolution. On September 1, Philippine literature takes its next step forward when the Don Carlos Palanca Memorial Awards for Literature are handed out at the Peninsula Manila's Rigodon Ballroom. The Palanca Awards night brings into focus the ingredients for all who desire to write: the nights of rewriting, the quest for inspiration and the race to beat the April 30 deadline. It is an opportunity to honor those who have imagined faster, higher and stronger, those who have received the gold, silver and bronze medals of the written craft. After all, laurel wreaths are not just for athletes. It is a time to honor past celebrants, including those who had previously appeared in the SUNDAY INQUIRER MAGAZINE's pages, such as Nicolas Pichay, Victoria Bravo, Lourd Ernest de Veyra, Angelo V. Suarez, Socorro Villanueva, and Eugene Y. Evasco. And it is a time for the recognition of new talent as well, with 31 first-time awardees. Now, SIM parades eight winners as we provide the fanfare for our writers and the passion that keeps them dreaming.

Ruel S. De Vera

PALANCA BY THE NUMBERS

Year the Palanca Awards began: 1950
Number of categories in 1950: 1 (Short Story in English and Filipino)
Number of categories in 2004: 21
Total number of awards given since 1950: 1,664
Total prize money given in 2004: Php 592,000
Total number of judges in 2004: 63
Total number of entries in 2004: 906
Category with the most entries: Short Story in English (97)
Category with the least entries: Full-length Play in English (10)
Number of first-time winners in 2004: 31
Number of first prizes necessary for the Hall of Fame: 5
Number of writers now in Hall of Fame: 16
Deadline for next year's Palanca Awards entries: Midnight, April 30, 2005

Edgar C. Samar

Taking a Magical Look Back

Edgar "Egay" Calabia Samar is no stranger to prizes. The 23-year-old San Pedro City native has previously won two Palancas, among other accolades.

But the young president of the writers' group Linangan ng Imahen, Retorika at Arte or LIRA is thoroughly enjoying his first prize for Filipino Poetry with what he calls his "wounded narratives." As a poet, he has always valued solitude: "The lyric sings of solitude, and so I was easily driven to it. Whenever I write, it is my attempt to recognize this need to be alone that I cannot have enough courage to fully embrace in reality." This boyish and soft-spoken Filipino teacher from the Ateneo recalls that he only began seriously writing poetry in college, inspired by the fact that everyone in the literary organization Heights wrote. And now look where he is.

His winning collection, *"Tayong Lumalakad Nang Matulin"* is actually the title of his thesis for his Masters in Filipino Literature. "My desire then was to write about woundedness, and so I went back to the wounded narratives in our myths, folk tales and legends. The image of the *manananggal* wouldn't leave me—the way she would hurt herself (and others) so that she could live. I decided to write about her and the others that shared her predicament: the ones that figured in our folk stories—*nuno sa punso, diwata, aswang, tikbalang, mangkukulam, tiyanak, sirena,* etc.—that were actually, I believe, distillations of our strongest emotions as a people."

After recently earning his Master's degree, Samar is looking forward to a first book and, of course, more graceful poems about the witchraft of words and the unleashing of imaginations.

Ruel S. De Vera

Excerpt

from ***"Tayong Lumalakad Nang Matulin"***
By Edgar C. Samar
First Prize, Poetry in Filipino

Kuwentong-Bayan

Nagnanaknak ang mga alamat
ng ating bayan. Sapo ng alaala
sa sugatan niyang palad
ang mga hindi napaghilom
ng panahon: pagkabaliw
ng mga diwata, pagsiksik
ng mga manananggal at tikbalang
sa pinakasulok ng takot,
pananahan ng mga multo
sa lahat ng kawalang-malay
na tinatalikuran ng lungsod,
paglikas ng mga anito sa gunita
ng mga pananalig. *Mahiwaga rito,*
babala ng mangkukulam
sa tinik sa ating talampakan
samantalang iniliigaw tayo
ng kaniyang paanyaya
upang iwan natin ang tángang sigpaw
at lusungin ang hikbi ng agos
sa mga batong nilulumot.
Lagi'y rumaragasa
ang ating mga paghahangad
na iwan ang nakaraan.
Lumingon sa pinanggalingan,
bulong ng sirena sa alon
sa tuwing tinatangay tayo ng ilog
sa dagat ng kawalang-katiyakan.
Subalit ang natatagpuan natin
ay asin lamang sa dalampasigan.
Magtatanong ang mga tiyanak
na nalulunod sa hiwaga ng gabi:
saan nagmula ang buwan?
At mararamdaman natin ang kirot
sa pagkaligaw ng isipan
sa kanilang lupain.
Buwan ang gamot sa mga taon,
buntong-hininga ng nuno
sa punso habang pinagmamasdan
ang papalayong liwanag
ng mga alitaptap. At saka tayo
rin ay lilisan: sakbibi ang hapdi
sa mga di-nagpabinyag na pangalan
na nananahan, nananangan
sa mga kuwentong di na pinakikinggan.

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HOLIDAY TWISTER
Holiday Inn Galleria Manila's featured drink of the month embodies September's chilly spell with its wild blend of mango, orange and guyabano juices. A zing of vodka and Southern Comfort matched with embellishments of Maraschino cherry and orange wheel complete this perfect rainy day companion. Available at the Monet-Bar Lounge and Raphael Café-Restaurant. For inquiries, call 633-7111 loc. 7416 or 7440.

Naya S. Valdellon

Storm Trooper

AT almost 23, Naya (who describes herself from her poem, "Weatherbeaten, as "a woman/no storm has been named after"), may yet take the local literary scene by storm. Already, she has tucked several important poetry awards under her belt, including the Grand Prize in the First Maningning Miclat Award for Poetry, the first place in the Meritage Press Holiday Poetry Contest, and a finalist slot in the Free Press Literary Awards.

This part-time English instructor at the Ateneo describes her Palanca-winning poems as "more urban" than her previous works. The poems, set in places or vessels of movement, "explore social and romantic encounters that may be meaningful but often amorphous and accidental," adds this "accidental, unplanned, though not unwelcome, baby."

Naya might as well be talking about her poems when she describes the best poetry as something that "should astonish and move the reader on as many levels as it can with its language, tone, intellectual approach, its insight and emotional resonances."

Pennie Azarcon-dela Cruz

Excerpt from **"Casual ties"**

By Naya Valdellon
First Prize, Poetry in English

Casualty

A homeless man jumped into the path of an oncoming Metro Rail Transit 3 train between the Santolan and Ortigas stations yesterday, killing him instantly... He was around 30 to 35 years old and was wearing a black T-shirt and white underwear.

—Philippine Daily Inquirer

Black and white—that's all we know
of the man posted on today's paper

who bypassed guards, climbed the street-
level fence, and teetered on tracks

like a tricky lie. Between grit teeth,
between two stations, he leapt

to a conclusion. Others lost their train
of thought. Nothing here is neutral—

not the photo of the hobo wooing death
without his pants, nor the caption

calling him first casualty, nor the stain
of newsprint on our palms. Having read

the facts, we must write the true story:
a reason for despair—though loco-

motives rumble in our gridlocked minds;
a home to track down—where a pair

of slippers lies spurned on the stairs
and a bed, that has creaked its last, waits;

and a name—a word common enough
that if one of us had spoken it in caress

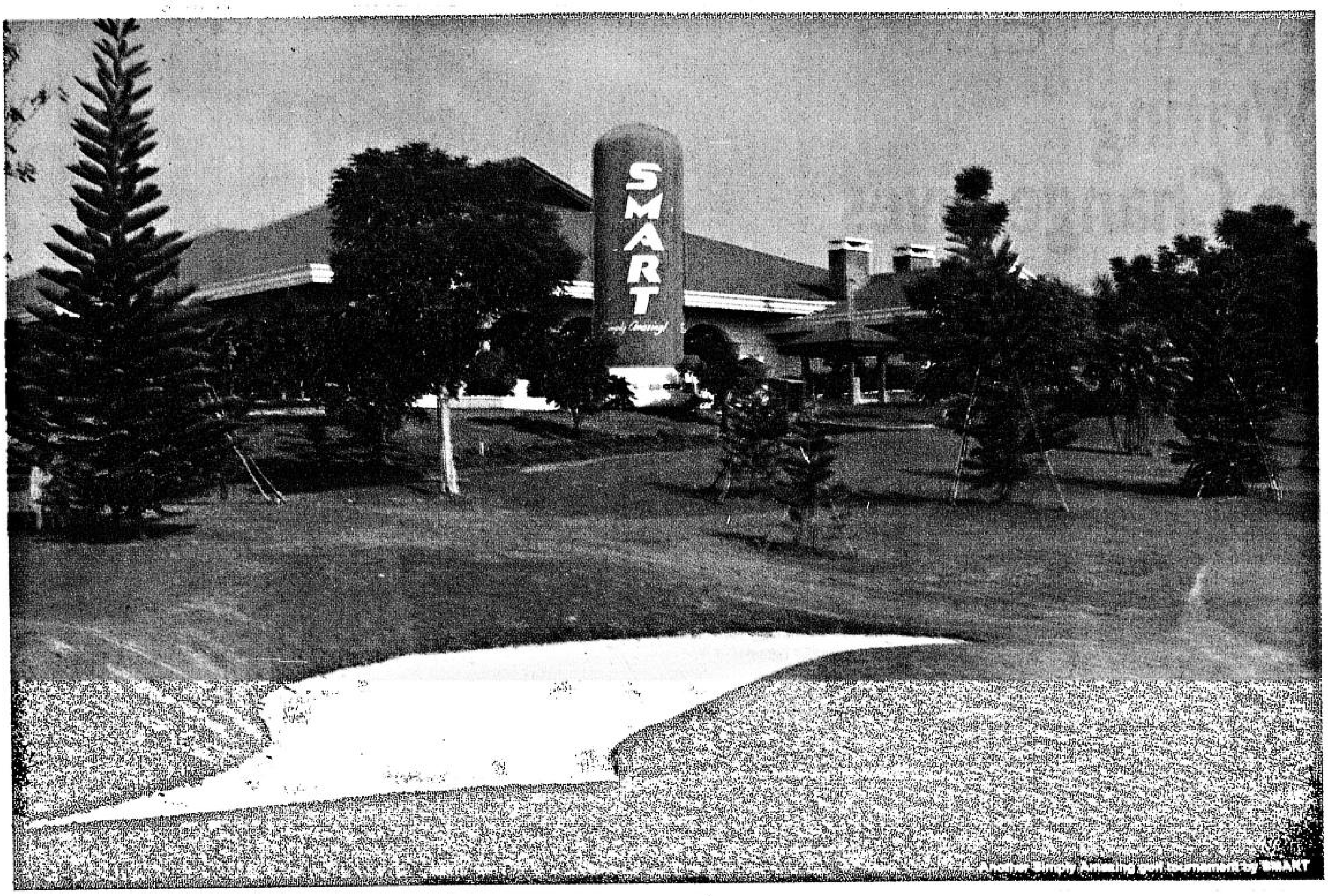
or curse, it would have rushed like a rumor
over billboards and vendors, and echoed

in his ears, and made him turn. That split-
second spin of his head is our invention.

If he doesn't pause, this poem will contain
a crash punctuating his body's confession.

If he is spared, we will take our places
on the train—passengers whizzing past

the precarious, all of us almost casualties
wanting to be saved beyond this page.



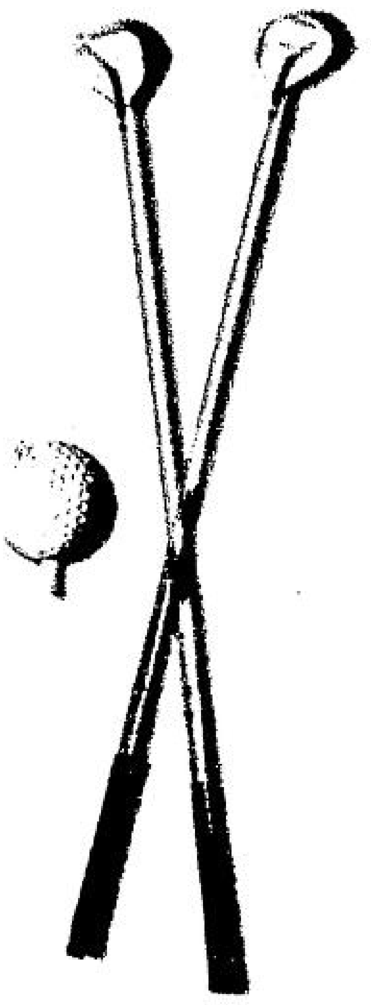
Another Simply Amazing golf tournament by SMART

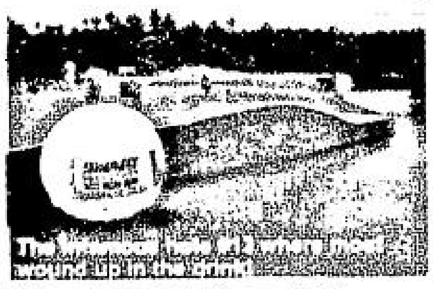
The SMART President's Cup Takes on Davao

Rancho Palos Verdes Country Club played host to yet another prestigious tournament. In its beautifully landscaped verdant greens, the first ever SMART President's Cup in Mindanao took place. A bright sunny morning, in the bustling metropolis of Davao, welcomed more than seventy participants who decided to take on the challenge of the 18-hole course. SMART Infinity members, corporate clients, and VIP's were pampered to the fullest with personalized lockers, individual gifts, and full sumptuous buffets; receiving nothing less than a 5-star treatment from the SMART crew. After a busy registration, players took to their respective holes for an exciting simultaneous tee off. A rotational system kept the greens active with putters and swingers all throughout the morning.

Keeping his competitive edge amidst the plains and rolling landscape Joe Marfori bagged the Class A award. Behind him were Yoshio Funakoshi for Class B and Chester Uyco for Class C. The only woman in the group, Melly Leyeza, won the Ladies Division with the score of net 74. With a magnificent view of a banana plantation on one side and the light and easy camaraderie amongst players on the other, the event was anything but simply serious. Special awards were given to fellows who made this event not only challenging but enjoyable as well. Among the awards given were the In The Drink Award for the most number of balls in the water, In The Bunker Award, and the Ladies Tee Award for the shortest drive; all given in good sport and clean fun.

SMART and PLDT President Polly Nazareno together with the Head of SMART PCMSD Boy Martirez were there to partake in the event and to give off trophies to the deserving winners. Three cheers to Smart for yet another world-class sporting contest!





[illegible] wound up in the drink.

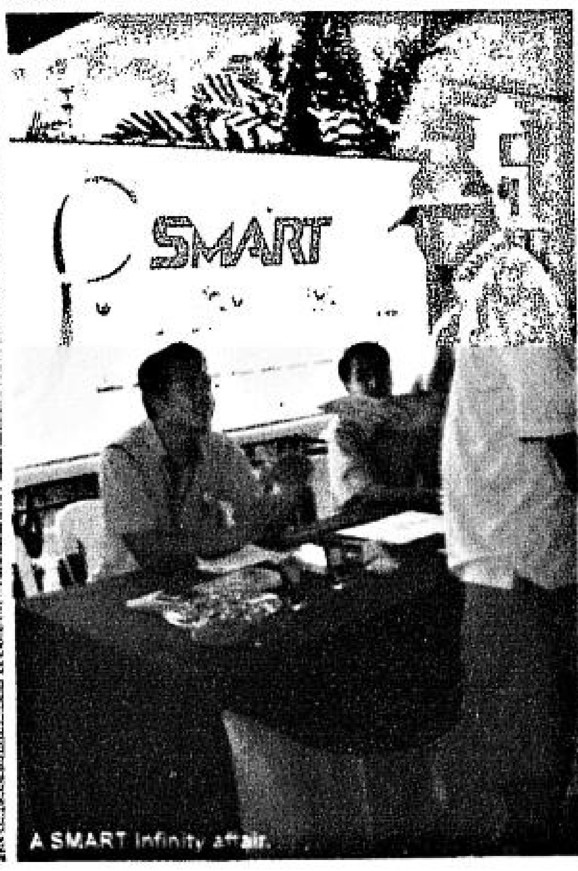
[illegible] most demanding greens.

Rancho Palos Verdes welcomes the SMART President's Cup in Davao

[illegible] dance numbers.

SMART President's Cup only lady golfer [illegible]

Going through [illegible]



A SMART Infinity affair.

The champions with Polly Nazareno and Boy Martirez

[illegible]

Greg Atienza in exciting simultaneous tee off to start the tournament.

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Isagani R. Cruz

Writing to Change Lives

AT 59, Dr. Isagani R. Cruz has either written or written of every form of literature you can throw a reference at in the Philippines. Yet Cruz, one of our top critics, essayists and playwrights, actually holds a degree in Physics from the University of the Philippines, though the "doctor" in his title comes from his Ph.D. in English from the University of Maryland. A Full Professor and pillar of the literary community at De La Salle University, Cruz has received basically every grant, fellowship and award out there, yet he explains that he has always been motivated by "the hope that someone will read or watch my work and be moved by it to change her or his life for the better." Also making Cruz's life better is wife Remedios and his two grown children.

A columnist for the Philippine Star, former Undersecretary of Education and author/editor of over 30 books, Cruz was 33 when he won his first Palanca, a third prize for one-act play in English. "I was just happy I had finally caught up with all the young writers winning Palancas." As the years went, by, though, Cruz also sought to attain those required five first prizes to make the Hall of Fame, now one of Philippine literature's top honors. "Being named to the Palanca Hall of Fame has been my dream since it was established in 1995. At that time, I already had four first prizes and needed only one more. I also cherish all the other awards, of course, but the Palanca is something else."

The breakthrough win came this year, with the play "The Lovely Bienvenido N. Santos" topping the contest for Full-length Play in English. "I wanted to write a biography of Bienvenido N. Santos, my literary father, but I did not want to write it as a scholar but as a creative writer," Cruz explains. After securing the permission from the late great Santos's surviving offspring, Cruz believes he has indeed done it: "I think what I did—creative nonfictional biography in drama form—has not been done before."

There's no rest for the victorious, of course, as Cruz has begun work on "Bienvenido N. Santos, The Musical," the planned final part of Cruz's trilogy of plays on Santos. There are also books to be written, among them "the contemporary history of De La Salle University for its Centennial." Through it all, Cruz continues his teaching, writing and critiquing, and, with his induction into the Palanca Hall of Fame, gives this advice to young writers who aspire to find success and fulfillment in writing: "Write not to win awards, but the hearts and minds of the people you care most about."

Ruel S. De Vera

Excerpt

from **"The Lovely Bienvenido N. Santos"**
By Isagani R. Cruz
Hall of Fame
First Prize, Full-length Play in English

Ending of Act 1, Scene 2:

CASTOR (to AUDIENCE):

That's what Bienvenido Nuqui Santos always said after he won a hand at a poker game. "Santos wins." His friends at Wichita State University, where he spent 1973 to 1982 as a Writer-in-Residence and a professor of Creative Writing, would say of him that he was the best poker player they had ever played with. According to Phil Schneider, "Inevitably, at the end of the evening, although he didn't seem to be winning, he managed to walk away with the money." According to Stephen Hathaway, "All of a sudden, he would lay his cards down and say, 'Ah, Santos wins!'" Hathaway said of Santos, "He was a lovely man." I don't play Santos in this play. My name is Castor Kabiling Santos or C. Kabiling Santos, one of the pseudonyms Santos used in his long writing career. There was a real Castor Kabiling Santos, Santos' cousin and classmate in U.P. Santos really couldn't swim, and he really asked Castor to take that final examination in physical education for him. In 1981 U.P. gave Santos an honorary doctorate, ignoring his having cheated in swimming to get his degree. The other characters carry the other pseudonyms he used—Eugenio Lingad, Tomas F. Mendoza, Carlos Parrone, Alejandro P. Rito, and Exequiel Young. There was a real Eugenio Lingad, who worked as a taxi driver while studying at night at the National University in Manila. Santos wrote the story entitled "Taxi" under the name of Eugenio, the story that first appeared in Philippine Magazine. Tomas was Tomas F. Mendoza in print. Mendoza was his father's maternal family name. The F stood for Flores, which was the family name of Luisa, one of his earliest loves. That was a private reference he shared with us poker players...You wonder why a man who made such a name for himself would need a pseudonym, let alone seven. But Santos was used to having many names, even in real life. His parents called him Vening or Biening or Bien or Bining, his friends Ben or Mang Ben or Uncle Ben, his readers simply Santos.

Asterio Enrico N. Gutierrez

A Story of Being First Time Lucky

SOMETIMES, all it takes is a chance. Asterio Enrico "Aste" Gutierrez, 22, is an AB English Literature senior at the Ateneo de Manila and had been taking fiction seriously only in his college years. But Gutierrez dreamt big, thinking perhaps of producing 11 stories, all with a common theme, a story arc, so to speak. He's decided on the theme of different kinds of blindness, and with fictionist/professor Gad Lim serving as, in Gutierrez's words, "midwife" to the stories, he has more or less finished five of those planned 11 stories. And one of the first ones is literally about blindness, the visual kind. "Most of the stories I've written are about lonely, wretched people trying desperately to escape that sadness and wretchedness, but they always end up in even worse situations. So it's either I really care about and sympathize with them, or it's the story of my life. Or both," he explains.

Joining the Palancas, Gutierrez says, was akin to buying a Lotto ticket—"I just wanted to have a chance." Winning first prize for his short story was still an unexpected experience. Aside from savoring it, Gutierrez is looking forward to writing more stories. "I think up the plots in my head first and then when I sit down, it's all about the language," he says, adding that he agonizes over the choice of every word. Nonetheless, Gutierrez, unconventional streak and all, plans to share lit as well as write it: He plans to teach at a public high school after graduation. His own story, apparently, is just beginning.

Ruel S. De Vera

Excerpt

from **"Blind"**
By Asterio Enrico N. Gutierrez
First Prize, Short Story in English

He was on his last song of his first set when he heard it, a voice he had not heard in a long time.

It was nine o'clock, and once again he was at Mario's for his weekly Saturday evening gig, the novelty blind pianist. From eight to eleven, he slaved away on the restaurant's baby grand Yamaha, coaxing familiar melodies from the keys, in turn coaxing crisp bills out of leather wallets and into the gaping fishbowl on top of the piano lid. Not all of the evening's tips found their way to his own wallet; he took home a measly half while the rest—as Edith, the maitre d', explained in her commercial-voiceover-alto—went to the expenses covering the piano's maintenance, like the piano tuner who came once a month, at least among other things.

He had long stopped listening to the music; every night it was the same sad set of songs, the maddening monotony like the ticking of a metronome. Every night the same people approached him: a customer requesting something along the lines of "Somewhere in Time," or "Fur Elise," or Edith, giving him the cue for Mario's version of "Happy Birthday" —a bastardization of the original tune, the modified lyrics inviting them back when the next birthday came their way. Ramon obliged them every time, deaf to the music, listening to everything else.

Unable to see the waiters shuffling past him, or the customers pausing by his piano before Edith ushered them to the tables, he took to listening intently to the voices floating across the restaurant throughout the long stretch of the evening. The blindness had heightened his hearing, and he played a game with himself of giving as accurate a story of

To page 6

Honorio Bartolome De Dios

Finding Drama in Calamity

IN his prize-winning short story *"Etong Bayad, Sang Kalayaan Lang,"* Filipino fictionist Honorio Bartolome De Dios effectively uses bilingualism to take us inside the stream of consciousness of its main character, a native of Cotabato, displaced by calamities both natural and man-made. Lapsing from Visayan-accented Tagalog ("*alas-syiti midya*") to Cebuano ("*gid*," "*ka-adlaw*"), De Dios' protagonist remains an outsider trying and ultimately failing to blend into the city's mainstream.

The story is based on the author's long experience working for a disaster-management NGO, during which he established friendships with refugees driven from their homes by the military conflict with the MILF, and developed an ear for their authentic voices.

Born in Marilao, Bulacan and now residing in Meycauayan, the 42-year-old De Dios has been writing since his high school days in a seminary. His overwhelming preference for Pilipino stems in part from his Bulakeño roots, but he also credits his admiration for the works of Lualhati Bautista and the film scripts of Ricky Lee for reinforcing his bias. In 1987, he joined the UP Writers Workshop where he met other Pilipino writers such as Rogelio Sicat and Jun Cruz Reyes. Later, he became a member of the young fictionists' group Katha.

In 1993, De Dios won third prize in the Pilipino short story category of the Palanca. In 1998, the UP Press published "*Sa Labas Ng Parlor*," a collection of De Dios' gay-themed short fiction. He is currently working on a novel while taking his MA in Anthropology at the University of the Philippines.

Eric S. Caruncho

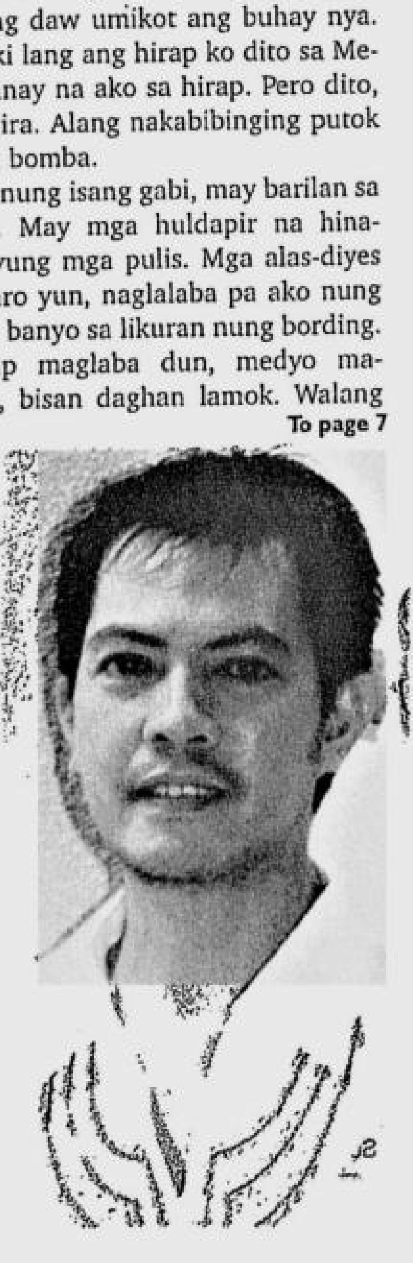
Excerpt

From ***"Etong Bayad, Sang Kalayaan Lang"***
By Honorio Bartolome De Dios
First Prize, Short Story in Filipino

Yung huling bakwit namin, binobomba ng militar ang mga kampo ng Em-ay. Palitan ng putok ang magkabilang kampo. Sinusunog ng mga sundalo ang mga bahay—ke Kristiyano ang nakatira o Muslim. Sabi nga ni Papa, wala namang pinipiling relihiyon ang gira, wala naman daw pinipiling tao ang bala at bomba. Tingin ko, sumuko na rin si Papa. Masamang-masama ang loob nya nung magkasakit bago namatay. Ang damot daw ng lupa at langit sa kanya. Kundi man matuyo ang mga pananim dahil sa sobrang init ng araw, lunod naman ang mga tanim sa sobrang ulan. At wala daw tigil ang gira. Ala na raw nagbago sa buhay nya sa baryu. Mula nung isilang siya, hanggang magka-asawa siya at hanggang matuto akong magbungkal ng lupa at mangisda sa Ligwasan, sa kahirapan at gira lang daw umikot ang buhay nya. Kaya oki lang ang hirap ko dito sa Menila. Sanay na ako sa hirap. Pero dito, alang gira. Alang nakabibinging putok ng mga bomba.

Pero nung isang gabi, may barilan sa looban. May mga huldapir na hinahabol yung mga pulis. Mga alas-diyes na siguro yun, naglalaba pa ako nung polo sa banyo sa likuran nung bording. Masarap maglaba dun, medyo mahangin, bisan daghan lamok. Walang

To page 7



Shower of Savings this September

at SM City Fairview, SM City Manila, SM City Bicutan and SM City Cebu

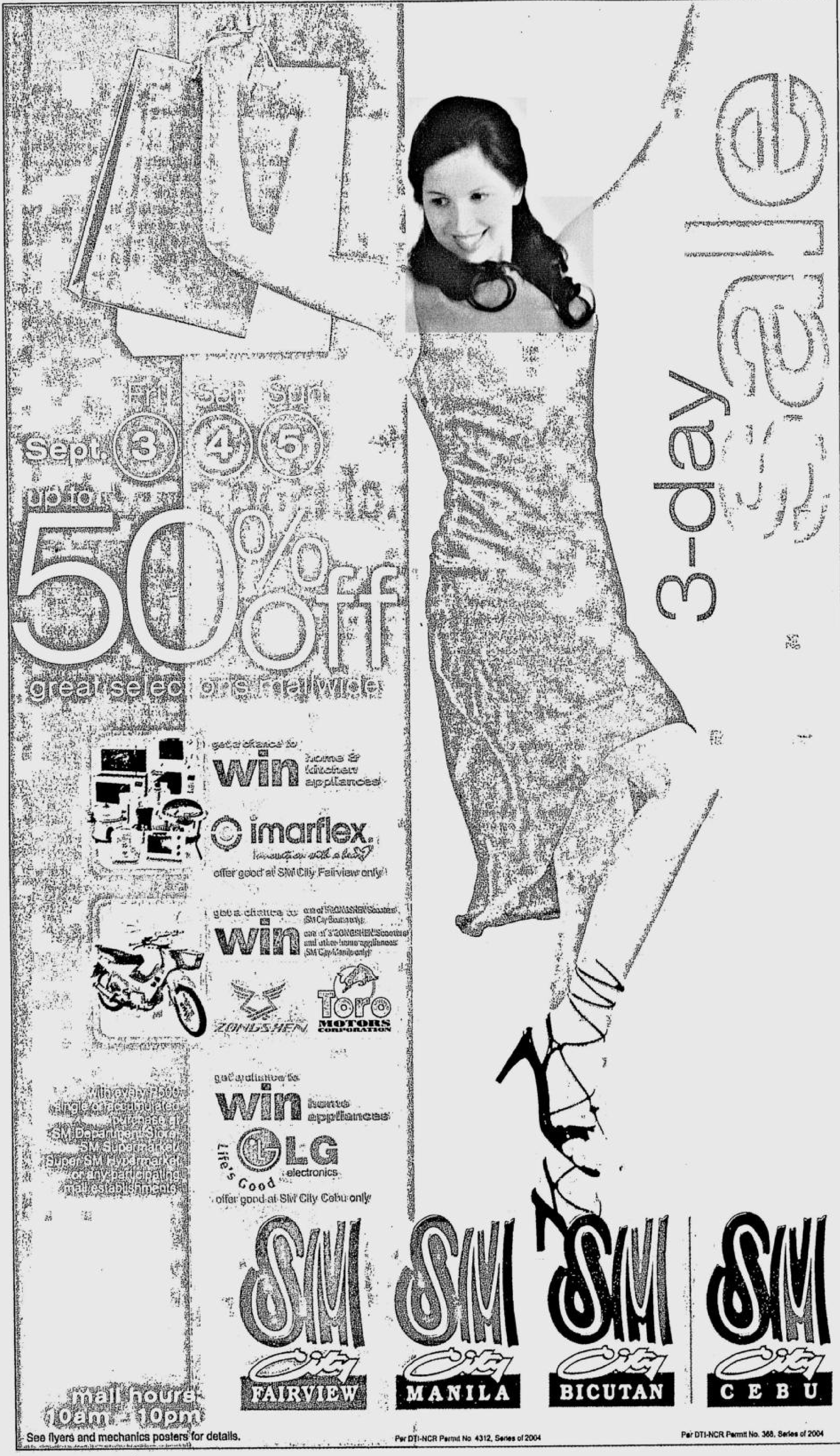
Experience heavy shower of savings from north to south as the much awaited SM 3-DAY SALE happens simultaneously in 4 SM Supermalls on September 3, 4 and 5!

Last chance for shopaholics and bargain hunters to grab those items they've been eyeing for at surprisingly low, low prices!

Enjoy as much as 50% off or more from shoes, fashion, home furnishings, I.T. gadgets, baby essentials, sports gear, groceries, personal care products, stationery and novelty items on great selections mallwide! Lucky shoppers will also get a chance to win exciting prizes during the 3-DAY SALE raffle!

So rush to SM City Fairview, Manila, Bicutan and SM City Cebu for the last 3-DAY SALE of the year!

SALE SHOPPING starts from 10 am to 10 pm at SM City Fairview, SM City Manila, SM City Bicutan and SM City Cebu.

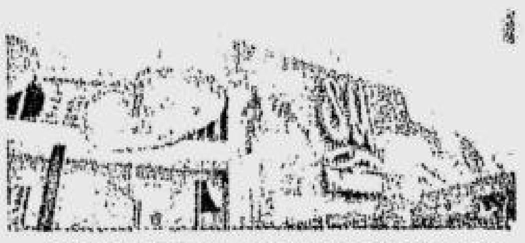

Fri Sat Sun
Sept. 3 4 5
up to 50% off
great selections mallwide
3-day sale
get a chance to win home & kitchen appliances
imarflex. innovation with a bes
offer good at SM City Fairview only
get a chance to win one of 5 ZONGSHEN Scooters (SM City Bicutan only) one of 3 ZONGSHEN Scooters and other home appliances (SM City Manila only)
ZONGSHEN
Toro MOTORS CORPORATION
get a chance to win home appliances
LG electronics Life's Good
offer good at SM City Cebu only
with every P500 single or accumulated purchase at SM Department Store, SM Supermarket/ Super SM Hypermarket or any participating mall establishments
SM City FAIRVIEW
SM City MANILA
SM City BICUTAN
SM City CEBU
mall hours 10am - 10pm

See flyers and mechanics posters for details.

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 4312, Series of 2004

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 368, Series of 2004

more shopping reasons to go to SM CITY FAIRVIEW



SM City Fairview has just added a new wing that will surely tease your shopping appetite! The **Fairview Annex** now houses 37 new fashion and accessories shops, 21 fastfood and restos, 18 home centers plus 39 more of your favorite leisure, entertainment and health stores!

Visit SM City Fairview during the 3-DAY SALE for great discounts and superb shopping experience!

Shop 'til you drop during the **Midnight Bazaar** on September 3, 4 and 5 at the Open Parking C from 6 pm to 12 midnight.

Plus! Get a Chance to WIN imarflex Home and Kitchen Appliances during the 3-DAY SALE Raffle!

Every P500 single or accumulated purchase from SM Department Store, SM Supermarket or from any participating mall establishments (food and non-food) entitles the customer to one (1) raffle coupon.

PRIZES AT STAKE

8	units	COFFEE MAKER
10	units	GRILLERS
9	units	MULTI-COOKER
3	units	WASHING MACHINE
6	units	MICROWAVE/ GRILLER/ TOASTER IN 1
9	units	PORTABLE COOKER
9	units	PRESSURE COOKER
5	units	TURBO BROILER
5	units	VACUUM CLEANER
5	units	WATER PURIFIER

great buys in SM CITY MANILA

Enjoy great discounts on an extensive range of fashion and specialty items, sports and leisure facilities, home furnishings, fastfood and restos, supermarket and more! Check out other promotional offers when you shop at the SM Department Store, Factory Sale Outlet, Ace Hardware, SM Cinemas and more!

Plus! Get a chance to WIN EXCITING PRIZES in the 3-DAY SALE Raffle!

3	units	ZONGSHEN (Moped) SCOOTERS
3	units	SHARP REFRIGERATORS V-22T (7cu. ft)
6	units	SHARP WASHING MACHINES ES-45W
3	units	AHMO-20 MICROWAVE OVENS

Raffle draw is on September 3 & 4 at 3:00, 6:00 and 8:30pm; September 5 at 3:00, 6:00 and 9:30pm.

super shopping at SM CITY BICUTAN

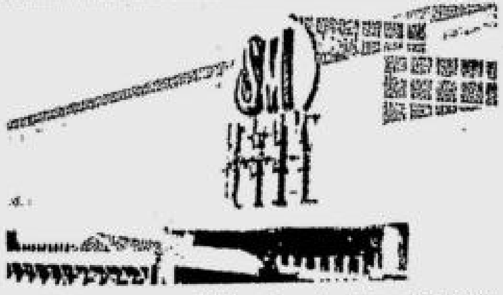
Mark your calendar as SM CITY BICUTAN holds its last 3-DAY SALE event of the year. Enjoy great savings from food to fashion at the Super SM Hypermarket and other specialty shops mallwide!

Plus! Get a chance to ride home a Zongshen Scooter Bike when you join the raffle!

WIN one of 5 ZONGSHEN SCOOTERS for single or accumulated purchase worth P500 at SM Department Store, Super SM Hypermarket or at participating mall establishments.

Raffle Draw is on September 5, 2004 at 10:30 pm.

mallwide sale in the Queen City, Cebu



Cebuanos will be treated to a 3-DAY SALE shopping sensation from September 3, 4 and 5, 2004.

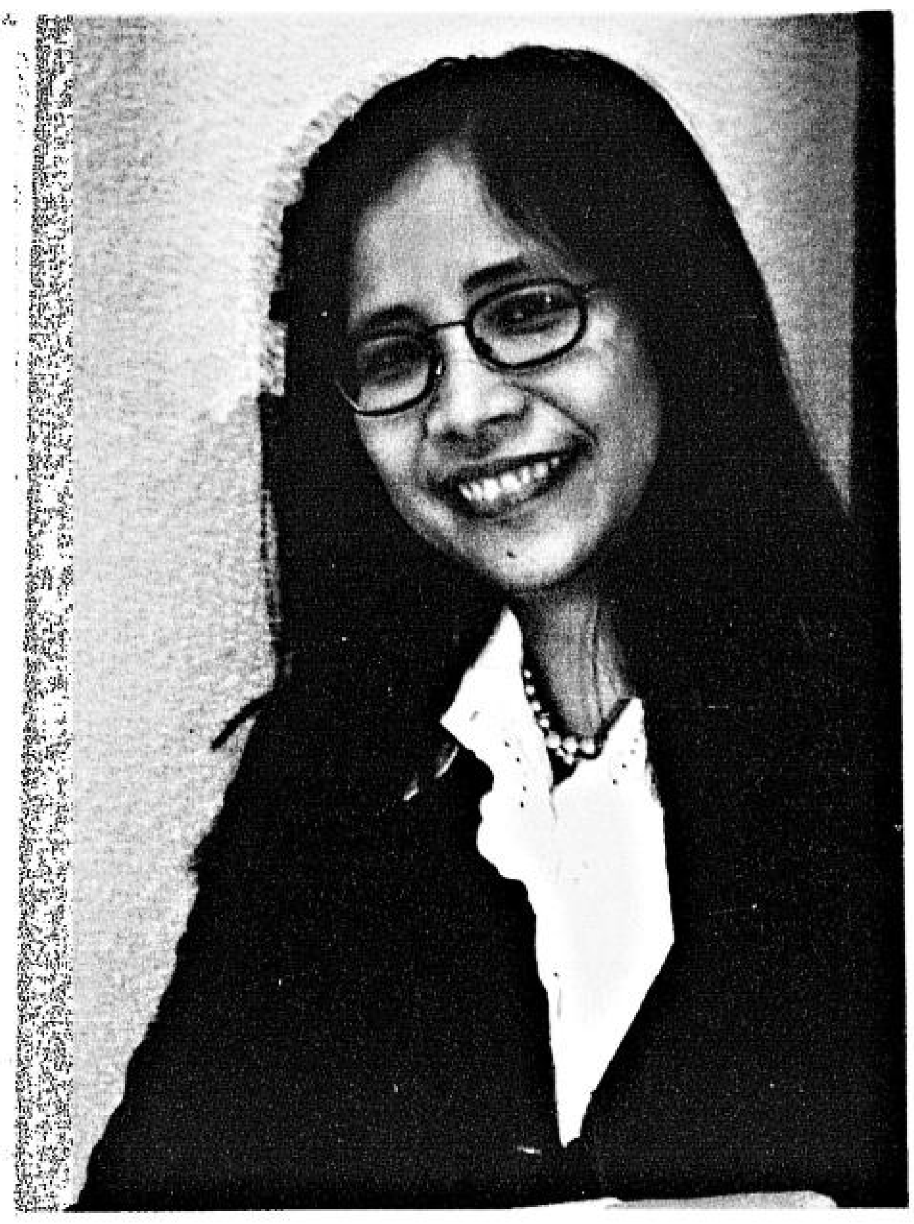
Plus! Get a chance to WIN EXCITING HOME APPLIANCES from LG

PRIZES AT STAKE

6	units	LG REFRIGERATORS (7 cu. ft/ 2-Door)
6	units	29" LG FLATRON TV

Luna Sicat Cleto

Will *and* Grace (And *a* Sprinkling *of* Genes)



WITH multi-awarded Pilipino writers Rogelio and Ellen Sicat for parents, Luna Sicat-Cleto dreads the prospect of being asked that much-abused question, "Is writing in the genes?"

"It has begun to feel like a trick question," says this four-time Palanca winner for poetry, the essay and short story for children. "The habit of writing can be contagious, but if you don't nurture it, it will dissipate." Rather than counting on her genes, she chose to be a writer, Luna adds, "because writing clarifies and puts order into chaos. One is simultaneously detached and involved in the process. You hide from things, but you also confront them."

Confronting her Palanca win sounds like another trick question, says this former Journalism major who shifted to Film and who's currently on a local faculty fellowship. "I'm gratified, of course. But while winning has to do with luck and with grace, I also believe that a larger part has to do with the writer's courage to join—this is a contest, after all. If one can lose with grace, that's fine. There's always the next Palanca."

Pennie Azarcon-dela Cruz

Excerpt

From **"*Balanse*"**
By Luna Sicat Cleto
First Prize, Essay in Filipino

Hanggang sa aking oras ng pahinga, habang humihilik na sa aking tabi ang aking asawa't anak, nananatili akong gising na gising at nagbibisikleta sa isip. Parang, nasa tamang daan nga ako. Nasa tamang daan dahil ito naman (yata) (daw) ang kahahantungan ng pagiging tao natin sa mundong ito. Ang makipag-ugnay, ang magkaroon ng kaugnayan, ang sumunod sa tamang daan. Pero, nasa tamang daan nga ba ako? Dahil kung hindi tama ang daan, bakit pa guguhitan ang kalye para italaga ang mga right at left lane? Bakit papunta doon ang mga jeep at hindi sa kabila, bakit madalas tumawid ang mga tao sa mga sangandaan? At sa pagitan ng pagmumuni sa mga lane at sangandaan, namamalayan kong ako at ang bisikleta ay may relasyon. May relasyon ako sa bisikleta. Hindi lamang ito sinasakyan. Hindi lamang ako nakasakay. Posibleng ako ang sinasakyan nito. At ang bawat pagsakay ay muling pagtuklas sa kung papaano nga ba sumakay. Sa lahat ng uri ng sasakyan, may gulong man o wala. Sa lahat ng uri ng destinasyon, sa lunsod man o sa malayong lalawigan. Sa lahat ng lugar na may makikitang bakas ng kalye. Nadidikta ko ang bilis. Ang bagal. Napagpapasyahan ko kung saan ako papunta. Kahit hindi ako nakatitiyak kung may papupuntahan.

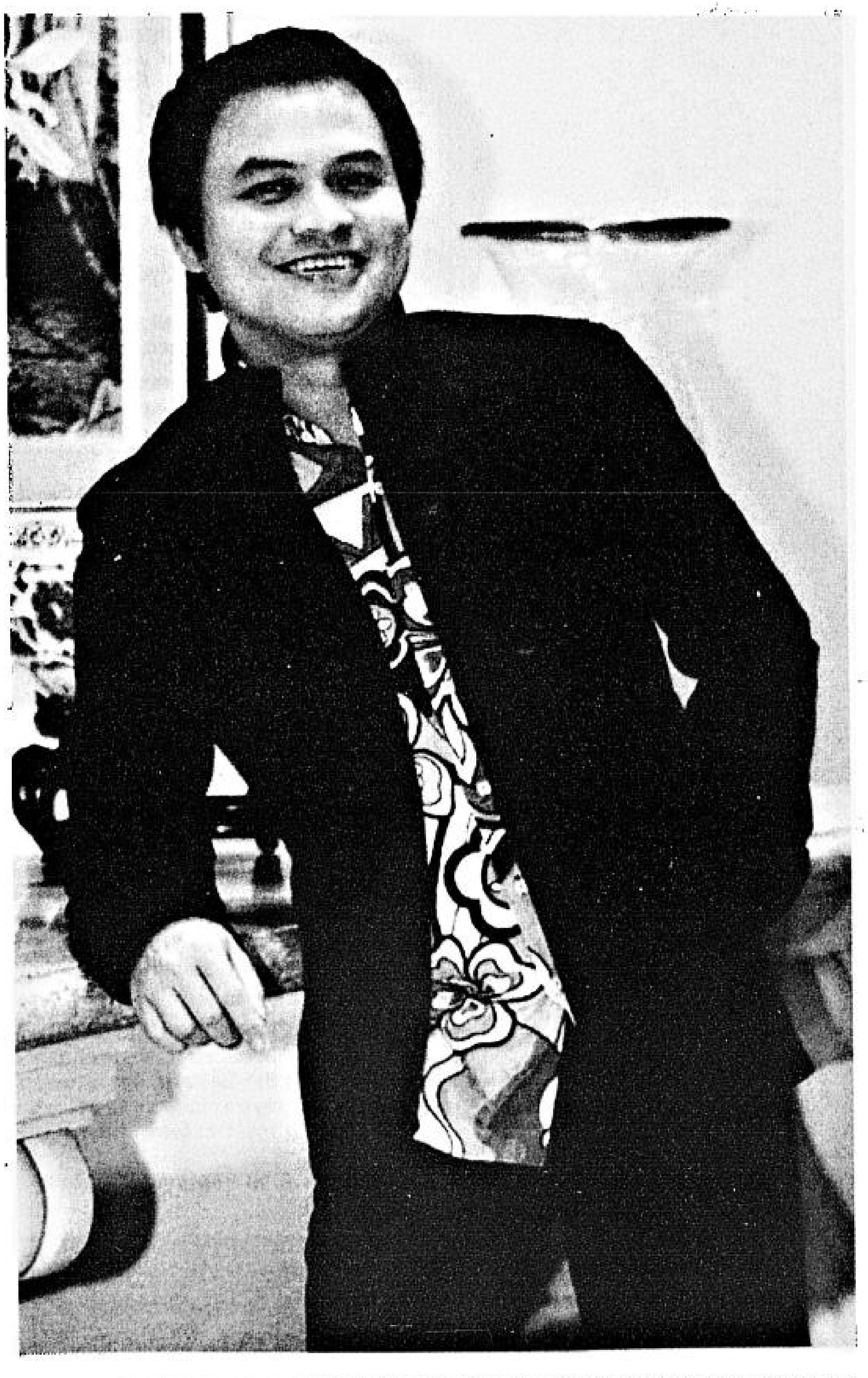
* * *

May isang panahong dumaan—na hanging humahaging na lamang—na pangit raw tingnan ang babaeng nagbibisikleta dahil siya'y nakabisaklat. Dahil ang uniberso ng babae noon ay bahay at kusina, silid tulugan, kumbento. Hindi uubra sa mga mahihinhin ang makina ng bisikleta. Kung nais mong magpalda habang nagbibisikleta, bahala ka. Basta siguraduhin mo lang na hindi ito ubod ng ikli at baka pagpistahan ang singit mo't hitang gumigiling. Binago ng praktika ng pagbibisikleta ang fashion sense ng kababaihan. Hinudyat ng kalayaan ng galaw ang kalayaan rin ng tabas ng damit, at ang bagong sensualidad ng katawang ipinagmamayabang ang liksi't kalusugan. Oo, hindi ito teritoryo ng mga virginal, lalo na 'yung mga naniniwalang ang puri ng babae ay nakasalalay lamang sa manipis na hymen. Na posibleng mawarat daw sa pagbibisikleta. Nang hindi sinasadya. Hindi ito sasakyan ng mga nerbiyoso. Pagkat lagi itong may hatid na sorpresa mula sa tanawin at aksidente ng mga relasyon ng kapwa sa isa't isa.

Sasakyan ito ng epiphany. Na hindi basta holy ghost or annunciation ang kontexto. Basta. Hayaan mo na lang na dalawin ka nito nang hindi mo hinahanap.

Wilfredo O. Pascual Jr.

Writing of Home



First-time Palanca winner Wilfredo O. Pascual Jr. describes himself as "a writer who writes away from home, totally dependent on memory and imagination, restlessness and reflection in confronting my own displacement."

Pascual was only eight years old when he was named "Most Creative Writer of the Year" in his hometown of San Jose City, Nueva Ecija. This early encouragement fueled his passion for the written word: At 18 he was writing scripts for television; at 23 he tried his hand at a romance novel; and in between he wrote poetry. In 2002 he attended the New York University Creative Writing Program and the following year he was a Breadloaf Work Study Scholar for Creative Nonfiction in the US. He counts among his influences scriptwriter Ricky Lee, poet and PDI correspondent Frank Cimatu as well as American authors David Haward Bain and Patricia Hampl.

Twelve years ago he moved to Bangkok, Thailand to work as publications officer of the Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization, a job which also requires a great deal of writing, though of the technical rather than literary variety.

"All the while, I was trying my hand at fiction, but it was only very recently through creative nonfiction that I finally found my voice as a creative writer," he says. His prize-winning essay "Devotion"—which explores the meaning of Nora Aunor and her fandom to our cultural life—started as a series of postings in an e-group to which he belongs, the International Circle of Online Noranians, ICON.

"It was Nora Aunor and other Noranians who inspired me to write my entry and my need to understand fandom and ground my displacement through hope and devotion in the movies."

Eric S. Caruncho

Excerpt

from **"Devotion"**
By Wilfredo O. Pascual Jr.
First Prize, Essay in English

The most striking feature of Noraland is the strange resonance between the plotlines of her movies and the oftentimes bizarre turn of events in her real life. We know that in real life, Nora Aunor adopted and raised four Amerasian children and that at the height of Noramania in the early '70s, the feverish fans worshipped a blonde doll owned by Nora Aunor, a second chance for her doll-deprived childhood when she was fated instead to run after trains hugging bottles of water to sell. Christened by the fans as Maria Leonora Theresa, people wrote to the doll and sent her homemade cards. And as if that breathed life to the doll, Maria Leonora Theresa wrote back and eased the people's worries. They pierced her ear and made her wear earrings. They lavished her with jewelries and expensive clothes. And when the death toll of the deadly typhoons rose, the most photographed doll in Philippine history, went to church and wept. In the editorials she wrote for magazines, the doll inspired the Noranians to mobilize truckloads of fans to help the victims by donating food and clothes, to preach the doll's message of love and charity. Could it be that we have to go backwards in time to fully understand everything? In 1521, the Spanish friar Pedro de Valderrama met the queen of Cebu who was moved to tears when the secular priest showed her an image of the miraculous Holy Child, carved in Flanders and sporting the flamboyance of the baroque; its kingly emblems, the crown, the scepter and the orb signifying dominion. The queen acquiesced and asked for it to be kept in place of her idols. She was baptized and renamed after the Spanish queen mother, the unfortunate Juana La Loca, the progenitor of Bakekang.

Perhaps a body of work becomes complete and its metaphors worthy of study when, like a good story, its elements smoothly follow a clean, narrative arc. Nora Aunor's celluloid journey has a clear departure ("Lollipops and Roses") and return ("'Merika"). In between we find local culture in a foreign land (*"Burong Talangka"*), anti-imperialism (*"Gamu-Gamo"*) and the sometimes steep price paid by those of us who were left behind (*"Bakekang"*). That the nurses coincidentally have similar surnames, Corazon dela Cruz in *"Gamu-Gamo"* and Milagros Cruz in "'Merika," only symbolize the nature and requirement of this Golgothan journey—a cross we have to carry on the road to perdition or redemption. With the iconic images of Disneyland, Pearly Shells, US military base, Maria Leonora Theresa, Amerasians and the New York subway, we are grateful to Nora Aunor for culturally enriching our great journeys, our departures and returns, both imagined or real.

Asterio

...*from page 4*

the people as possible from the details and nuances of their conversations. Particular months brought in particular customers: December welcome customers with falsely-accented tagalog, regaling the table with descriptions of Fisherman's Wharf and the Statue of Liberty. March and April ushered in whole clans, with everyone passing around congratulations and jokes, the most raucous person often the graduate. With February came endless permutations of couples: middle-aged or elderly husbands and wives spending the evening talking about how the restaurant had or had not changed since their visit exactly a year ago; timid teenagers, awkwardly silent for the most part of their date which the boy had probably saved up months and borrowed money for; then the less frequent, more discreet combinations: old businessmen and college coeds, old businesswomen and college boys, then girls and girls or boys and boys—r's sometimes rolled, their lives often mentioned, love always in between the lines.

Glenn Sevilla Mas
The Outsider's Voice

IF THERE'S anybody who playwright Glenn Sevilla Mas believes he is speaking for, it's "the outsider looking in, who can't fit in." Thus, the characters in the works of this 36-year-old native of San Jose de Benavista, Antique, a self-confessed "proud *promdi*" at heart, are people who don't fit in and must wrestle with many demons before finally finding their place in this world, such as Dolores, the much-abused heroine of his winning one-act play, "Her Father's House."

Mas finished his mass communications degree at the West Visayas State University in Iloilo. "My dream then had been to perform at the Araneta Coliseum," he says, laughing, "and then I realized, this is the big city, it's not going to happen!" He was a scholar of the actor's company of the Cultural Center of the Philippines, where he studied at the feet of director Nonon Padilla. After deciding that he should create the scenes instead of acting in them, leaving the performing to such contemporaries as John Arcilla and Allan Paule, he taught playwrighting at the Philippine High School for the Arts in Makiling.

Mas has had his own share of personal turmoil and feeling like he doesn't belong, and has finally learned to be "not so angry at the world, and to be more forgiving of myself and others," he reveals. Still, the ability to strongly empathize with his characters has served him well; he also won third place in the full-length play category, and has won a total of five Palancas since 1996. Evidently, his haunted characters have a universal appeal; the play has been staged in the United States, where Mas is in the second year of his masteral studies in playwrighting at the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C., as a Ford Foundation scholar—one outsider who is finally in the thick of the action.

Alya B. Honasan

Excerpt

from **"Her Father's House"**

By Glenn Sevilla Mas

First Place, One-Act Play in English

Dolores steps forward

DOLORES: Lent. Twenty-five years ago. Do you remember that time, Isabel? Do you remember what you were doing during that time, Isabel?

The third man from the previous scenes suddenly walks in, grabs Dolores by the hair and makes love to her violently again. Isabel prays the "Maghimaya Ka, Maria."

DOLORES: I couldn't cry because you stuffed my mouth with an old rag. I couldn't fight back because you tied my hands and feet to the bed. And the drink that you gave me that night before you ordered me to sleep? I am sure you laced it with the mysterious herbs and spices that you always kept in your cabinet drawer.

In the middle of Dolores' third line, Isabel stops praying and gets up. Dolores doesn't see her doing this and continues to address her, as though she were still in the chair. The chorus members take over Isabel's prayer as the latter's voice joins that of Dolores.

ISABEL	**DOLORES**
You speak like it was all my fault. You knew how your father was, yet you speak like everything was solely my fault!	And while you were busy getting rid of that which was slowly taking form inside me,
You saw what he did to me each time I raised my voice, yet you speak like I had a choice!	I forced myself to look away so I wouldn't see you doing what you were doing to me so painfully.
What else could I have done, Dolores?	You knew what he did to me.
How else was I supposed to act?	You pretended that you didn't but I knew you knew!
My sudden trips to the market My sudden errands to the fields My sudden visits to the neighbors I was in church the whole time, Dolores!	Your sudden trips to the market Your sudden errands to the fields Your sudden visits to the neighbors You knew but didn't do anything!

Dolores wails as the man reenacts the violent third scene earlier in the play.

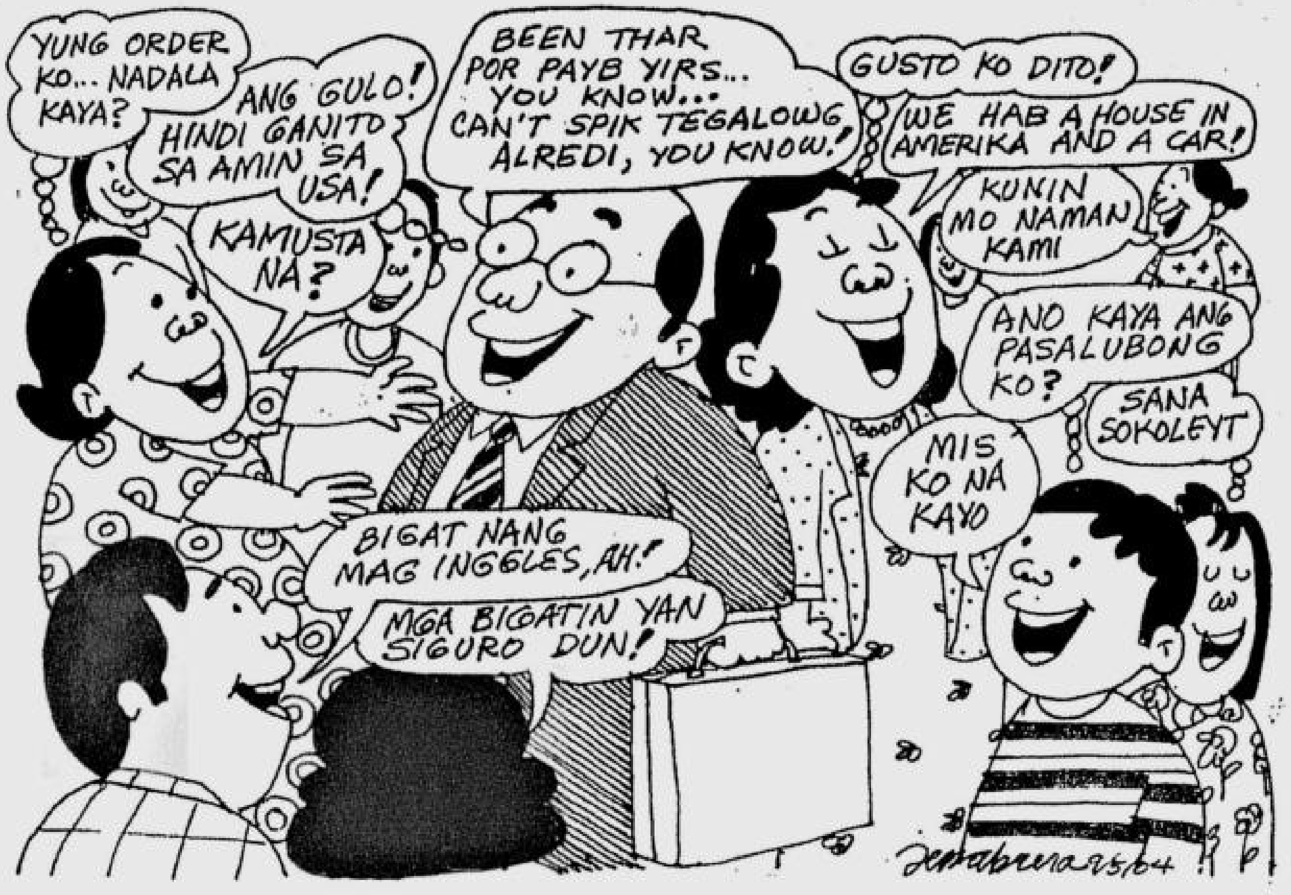
Honorio

...from page 4

bubung yung banyo at may tabing lang na yero yung harapan para daw hindi masilipan yung mga babeng borders pag naliligo. E kahit naman anong takip ang gawin nila, sinisilipan pa rin sila nung mga borders at istambay. Maya-maya nagkaputukan na. Napatigil ako sa pagkukusot. Nung hindi ako makasigurong putok nga ng baril, pinatay ko yung gripo. Tumahimik. Sa likod, sa likod, sigaw nung isa. Maya-maya, may bumagsak sa palangganang pinaglalabhan ko, tumilamsik sa mukha ko yung mga bula ng sabon. Napapikit ako sa hapdi. Nanginginig na ako sa takot. Naluluha pa ako sa hapdi nung sabon sa mata ko. Nakatitig lang ako sa harap nung palanggana. Ang tigas nung mga braso ko, nanginginig yung mga tuhod ko. Pero napatayo ako sa gulat nung muling magputukan. Papikit-pikit akong sumilip sa mga butas nung dingding ng banyo. Nakita ko yung lalaki, may tama ng bala sa dibdib, nakahiga sa kalye sa harap nung banyo. Duguan yung polong longslib. Buti pa yung holdaper, nakakasuot ng longslib. Pero, tingin ko wa-ay na gid ginhawa. Nung lumapit yung dalawang pulis, tig-isang putok pa yung binigay nila dun sa lalaki. 'Tangna mo, pinahirapan mo pa kami, sabi nung isang pulis na malaki ang tyan. Kala ko ba binawal na ang mga pulis na malaki ang tyan sa Menila? Sayang yung polo, nagkabutas-butas...

By Jess Abrera

Balikbayan


YUNG ORDER KO... NADALA KAYA?
ANG GULO! HINDI GANITO SA AMIN SA USA!
KAMUSTA NA?
BEEN THAR POR PAYB YIRS... YOU KNOW... CAN'T SPIK TEGALOWG ALREDI, YOU KNOW!
GUSTO KO DITO!
WE HAB A HOUSE IN AMERIKA AND A CAR!
KUNIN MO NAMAN KAMI
ANO KAYA ANG PASALUBONG KO?
SANA SOKOLEYT
MIS KO NA KAYO
BIGAT NANG MAG INGGLES, AH!
MGA BIGATIN YAN SIGURO DUN!
jessabrera 25/04

2004 DON CARLOS PALANCA MEMORIAL AWARDS FOR LITERATURE

Complete List of Winners

SHORT STORY-ENGLISH

First Prize: "Blind" by Asterio Enrico N. Gutierrez

Second Prize: "Foggy Makes Me Sad" by Socorro A. Villanueva

Third Prize: "The Index of Forbidden Books" by Paul S. De Guzman

MAIKLING KUWENTO

First Prize: "Etong Bayad, Sang Kalayaan Lang" ni Honorio Bartolome De Dios

Second Prize: "Mik-Eng" ni Clarito Garcia de Francia

Third Prize: "Dinuguan" ni Johannes L. Chua

MAIKLING KUWENTO-HILIGAYNON

First Prize: "Sinipad sa Balaan Bukid" ni Winton Lou G. Ynion

Second Prize: "Si Beryong Balikbayan" ni Genevieve L. Asenjo

Third Prize: "Balaan" ni John Iremil E. Teodoro

MAIKLING KUWENTO-CEBUANO

First Prize: "Ang Katapusang Sonata sa Clarinet ni Nikolet" ni Arnel M. Mardoquio

Second Prize: "Talia Migrante" ni Agustin Pagusara Jr.

Third Prize: "Gutom" ni Gumer M. Rafanan

MAIKLING KUWENTO-ILUKO

First Prize: "Apong Gabriel, Pundador" ni Prescillano N. Bermudez

Second Prize: "Opas" ni Daniel L. Nesperos

Third Prize: "Silaw a Makidinnaeg iti Di Maungpot nga Isisingising ti Init" ni Severino V. Pablo

SHORT STORY FOR CHILDREN

First Prize: "The Cat Painter" by Victoria Estrella C. Bravo

Second Prize: "Touch Ball" by Maria Celeste D. Flores

Third Prize: "The Boy Who Had Three Brains" by C. Horatius Mosquera

MAIKLING KUWENTO PAMBATA

First Prize: No Winner

Second Prize: "Si Mabait at ang mga Daliri ng Liwanag" ni Eugene Y. Evasco

Third Prize: "Tuwing Sabado" ni Russell Roland Molina

FUTURISTIC FICTION-ENGLISH

First Prize: "They Don't Bite" by Irene Carolina Aquino Sarmiento

Second Prize: "Niche" by Catherine Rose Galang Torres

Third Prize: "Hollow Girl: A Romance" by Dean Francis Alfar

FUTURISTIC FICTION-FILIPINO

No winners

ESSAY

First Prize: "Devotion" by Wilfredo Pascual, Jr.

Second Prize: "Confessions of a Space Boy" by Erwin Romulo

Third Prize: "Surviving the Zeroes" by Jose Maria G. Alarilla

SANAYSAY

First Prize: "Balanse" ni Luna Sicat Cleto

Second Prize: "Suson-susong Suso" ni Mary Grace P. Mendoza (Jing C. Panganiban)

Third Prize: "Diwa ng Manlalakbay" ni Melecio Antonio N. Adviento III

KABATAAN ESSAY

First Prize: "Window Pains" by Florianne L. Jimenez, UP Integrated School

Second Prize: "To Be President..... Why Not?" by Marc Gregory Y. Yu

Third Prize: "In Over-anticipation of the Future" by Marie Kristine F. Reyes

KABATAAN SANAYSAY

First Prize: "Iboto! Ako Para Pangulo" ni Marylaine Louise L. Viernes, De La Salle University

Second Prize: "Kung Ako ay Presidente ng Pilipinas" ni Kassandra Czarina B. Yap

Third Prize: "Kapitan" ni Mark Christopher Delos Angeles Deatras

POETRY

First Prize: "Casual Ties" by Naya S. Valdellon

Second Prize: "Literature and Other Poems" by Joel M. Toledo

Third Prize: "Else It was Purely Girls" by Angelo V. Suarez

TULA

First Prize: "Tayong Lumalakad nang Matulin" ni Edgar C. Samar

Second Prize: "Puti ang Anino ng Minsang Narito" ni Joseph Rosmon M. Tuazon

Third Prize: "Sa Mall ng Mega-buhay-buhay" ni Renato L. Santos

ONE-ACT PLAY

First Prize: "Her Father's House" by Glenn Sevilla Mas

Second Prize: "The Kite of Stars" by Dean Francis Alfar

Third Prize: "Sakura" by Robert Arlo De Guzman

DULANG MAY ISANG YUGTO

First Prize: "Pangulo Naming Mahal" ni Nicolas B. Pichay

Second Prize: "Mga Aswang sa Panahon ng Digmaan" ni Rodolfo C. Vera

Third Prize: "Unang Ulan ng Mayo" ni George de Jesus III

FULL-LENGTH PLAY

First Prize: "The Lovely Bienvenido N. Santos" by Isagani R. Cruz

Second Prize: "In Search of the Storybook Dragon" by Anna Felicia C. Sanchez

Third Prize: "Rite of Passage" by Glenn Sevilla Mas

DULANG GANAP ANG HABA

First Prize: "Psychedelia Apocalypsis" ni Nicolas B. Pichay

Second Prize: "Gulong" ni Jeanne Lim

Third Prize: "Anatomiya ng Pag-ibig" ni Allan B. Lopez

DULANG PANTELEBISYON

First Prize: "Tugtog Tinapay" ni Lourd Ernest De Veyra & Homer Noucio

Second Prize: "Riles" ni Ma. Clarissa N. Estuar

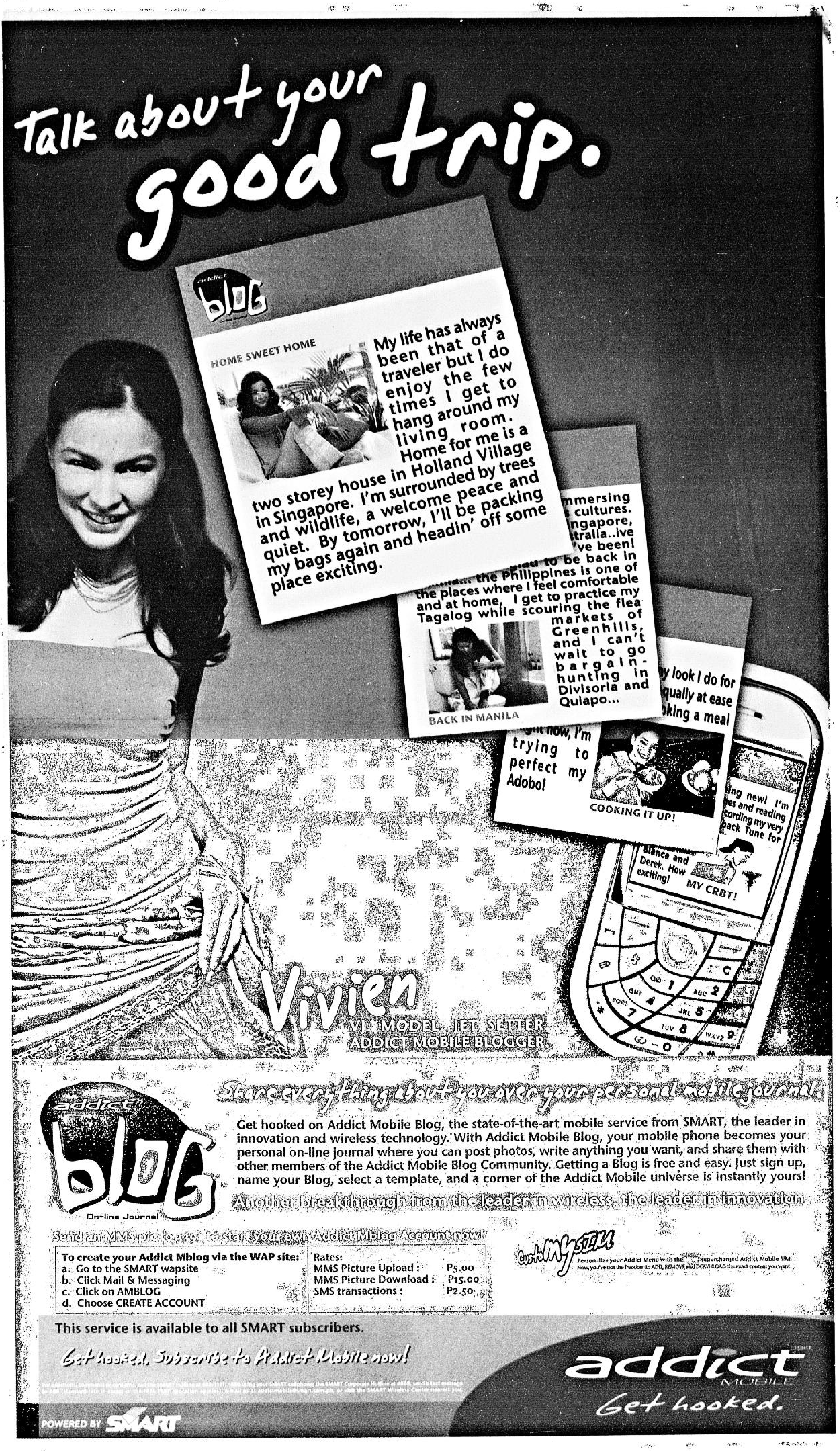
Third Prize: "Adik sa TV" ni Ramon Orbeta

DULANG PAMPELIKULA

First Prize: "Good Friday Archipelago" ni Mark A. Meily

Second Prize: "Snapshots" ni Ma. Abigael M. Malonzo

Third Prize: "Adoboville" ni Jose Maria Manalo



Talk about your good trip.

addict blog

HOME SWEET HOME

My life has always been that of a traveler but I do enjoy the few times I get to hang around my living room. Home for me is a two storey house in Holland Village in Singapore. I'm surrounded by trees and wildlife, a welcome peace and quiet. By tomorrow, I'll be packing my bags again and headin' off some place exciting.

mmersing
cultures.
ngapore,
stralia..ive
've been!
to be back in
the Philippines is one of the places where I feel comfortable and at home. I get to practice my Tagalog while scouring the flea markets of Greenhills, and I can't wait to go bargain-hunting in Divisoria and Quiapo...

BACK IN MANILA

y look I do for
qually at ease
oking a meal
ight now, I'm trying to perfect my Adobo!

COOKING IT UP!

ing new! I'm
es and reading
cording my very
back Tune for
Bianca and Derek. How exciting!

MY CRBT!

Vivien

VJ. MODEL. JET SETTER.
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